THE AMERICAN
# Legion
www.legion.org
$2.50 DECEMBER 2014
The magazine for a strong America

## UNBROKEN
The man behind the movie

Hot Springs VA in hot water

RYAN PITTS, MAN OF HONOR

## RIFFED
Military careers cut short

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919

USAA is proud to be the
**Preferred Provider**
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion

FIND OUT
WHY 92% OF
USAA MEMBERS
PLAN TO STAY
FOR LIFE.

**USAA Auto Insurance. We know what it means to serve.**

At USAA, our commitment to serve the financial needs of the military community is without equal. We understand military life. Just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them.

★ **GET A QUOTE.** usaa.com/legion or 1-877-699-2654

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. 92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2014 USAA. 209436-1114

## ANNOUNCING PRE-RELEASE OF 2015 SILVER EAGLES AT LOWEST PRICE IN 5 YEARS

**FREE SHIPPING**
**GUARANTEED FOR FIRST 500 ORDERS**

1 OZ. $1 SILVER AMERICAN EAGLE

ONLY $18.90
(Limit 1 Per Household)
NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY

# 2015 SILVER AMERICAN EAGLES

Announcing…International Currency is now taking pre-release orders for the new 2015 Silver American Eagles.* Incredibly, you can reserve these brand new U.S. Silver dollars at only **$18.90** per coin…**our lowest pre-release price in over five years!** Already a favorite among collectors both in the U.S. and abroad, this new low price is sure to add to their immense popularity. We've secured a minimum of 500 coins for this incredible offer and orders will be taken on a first come, first served basis. We have no way of knowing if more coins will be available at the **$18.90** once the 500 are gone so please don't wait, pre-order yours today!

### WHY ARE THESE COINS SO POPULAR?

Collectors the world over are drawn to the Silver American Eagles because they're the "real thing," genuine U.S. legal tender. In addition, their precious metal content (1oz of .999 pure silver) is backed and guaranteed by the full faith of the U.S. government. On top of that, we guarantee your 100% satisfaction with our 10-day in home inspection period.

### ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

We must adhere to a one coin per household limit at **$18.90**. However, additional coins are available at our cost plus shipping and handling. Don't wait and don't be disappointed you didn't act sooner… Call Now! **(800) 323-5055**

## CALL NOW TOLL FREE (800) 323-5055

*Expected ship date is the end of January 2015 pending release from U.S. Mint.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY, L.L.C
8725 EASTEX FREEWAY • BEAUMONT, TX 77708

IC# 26111214

Legion

# contents

December 2014 • Vol. 177, No. 6

**20** **RIF Tide**
Sequestration-driven force reductions leave national security and military families alike in peril. *By Douglas Wissing*

COVER STORY
**28** **The Man Who Was Unbroken**
Renegade, athlete, Olympian, soldier, prisoner, veteran, father, inspiration – Louie Zamperini filled all these roles and more. *By Henry Howard*

AP photo, Universal Pictures photo

**36** **Mystery in Hot Springs**
Veterans are baffled – and furious – as VA prepares to abandon a medical center that serves three states.
*By Ken Olsen*

**44** **'Valor Was Everywhere'**
Ryan Pitts distinguished himself on the battlefield, and in the heart of a young boy fighting for his life.
*By Mark Seavey*

**5** ***Vet Voice***
**8** ***Commander's Message***
**10** ***I Am The American Legion***
**12** ***Big Issues***
**14** ***Living Well***
**19** ***Veterans Update***
**52** ***Rapid Fire***
**70** ***Comrades***
**72** ***Parting Shots***

## NO CHIMNEY NEEDED

Children waited at the Alzey Drop Zone near Kaiserslautern, Germany, as Santa Claus made a memorable arrival last winter. Coordinated by the 5th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), 21st Theater Sustainment Command, as part of International Jump Week, Operation Toy Drop is an annual event to provide toys to area families.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Warren Wright

*The American Legion Magazine*, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.3 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

# NOTICE TO VETERANS WITH MESOTHELIOMA

As former sailors and Marines, we served together yesterday. As seasoned attorneys, my firm and I will fight for you today. Attorneys at Coady Law Firm have successfully represented veterans in mesothelioma claims nationwide for more than two decades. We've helped veterans understand their rights—and secured millions for their families in just compensation.

Trust in the experience and commitment of a shipmate who served with you. Contact the Coady Law Firm. Receive a ***FREE***, no-obligation consultation.

**Bud Coady**
*Harvard, 1979*
*USMC, 1979-89, 1991*
*Gulf War Veteran*

*Attorney at Law*

**$30 Billion**

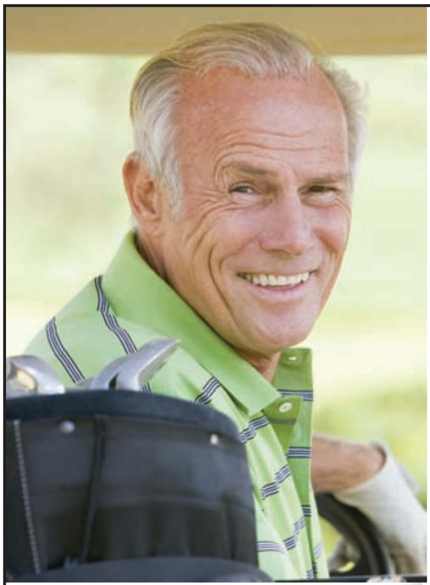
**FROM U.S. COMPENSATION TRUST FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS WHO QUALIFY**

**Call 1-888-802-MESO (6376)**

**TO DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.**

205 Portland Street • Boston, MA 02114 • Web: www.coadylaw.com

COADY
LAW FIRM



What Adult Diaper Companies Don't Want Men To Know . . .

*"Health risks and high out-of-pocket costs . . . men are unaware of Liberty's healthier alternative!"*

*"Men's Liberty is terrific. I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It is a Godsend." - John in Michigan*

MEN'S LIBERTY™
The Freedom to Live

**Covered by Medicare!**

Millions of men spend thousands of dollars each year on diapers, which are not covered by Medicare. These men are paying as much as $300 out of pocket each month... Men's Liberty is covered by Medicare, most state Medicaids, VA/Tricare and most private insurance plans.

*Ask if you qualify to receive Men's Liberty. We handle all claims and billing to Medicare and your Insurance provider.*

**The Diaper Dilemma**

Urinary incontinence affects more than 4 million men in the United States of all ages. Diapers trap moisture, causing UTIs, discomfort and injury rates up to 38%.

**Men's Liberty Alternative**

There has not been a confirmed UTI or serious skin injury caused by Men's Liberty, after **more than one million sold**. This is a non-invasive, external product that allows men to improve their lifestyle at work and quality of time with family.

**CALL TODAY!**

**1-800-814-3259**

**PROMO CODE: AML1214**

***Hablamos Español***

MEN'S LIBERTY™
The Freedom to Live

**www.MensLiberty.com**

THE AMERICAN **Legion** MAGAZINE

| | |
|---|---|
| **NATIONAL COMMANDER** | **Michael D. Helm** |
| **PUBLISHER** | The American Legion |
| **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** | Jeffrey O. Brown |
| **EDITOR** | Jeff Stoffer |
| **DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MAGAZINE OPERATIONS** | Henry Howard |
| **MANAGING EDITOR** | Matt Grills |
| **ASSOCIATE EDITOR** | Laura Edwards |
| **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** | Julie Campbell |
| **SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR** | Steve Brooks |
| **DISPATCH EDITOR** | Cameron Richardson |
| **ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR** | Andrew Romey |
| **BURNPIT EDITOR** | Mark Seavey |
| **VISUAL TEAM MANAGER** | Holly K. Soria |
| **MEDIA DESIGN SPECIALIST** | Celesta Török-Lee |
| **VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALIST** | Lucas Carter |
| **PRODUCTION MANAGER** | Tony Heath |
| **CONTRIBUTING EDITOR** | Alan W. Dowd |

**MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CHAIRMAN** | Benedict A. Lee, *Calabash, N.C.* |
| **VICE CHAIRMAN** | James C. Morris, *Cardington, Ohio* |
| **COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVE** | Terry D. Lewis, *Philadelphia* |
| **CONSULTANTS** | Jerilyn Strande, *Cottonwood, Ariz.*<br>Rodger A. Bennett, *Thawville, Ill.*<br>Albert W. Coughlin, *Park Ridge, Ill.*<br>Robert A. Corrigan, *Bronx, N.Y.* |
| **MEMBERS** | Roger H. Anderson, *South Windsor, Conn.*<br>Richard A. Baxter, *Palisade, Neb.*<br>Henry P. Bradley, *North Quincy, Mass.*<br>Fae Casper, *Douglasville, Ga.*<br>Thomas A. Fernlund, *St. Cloud, Minn.*<br>John J. Gasper, *Archbald, Pa.*<br>Paul L. Greer, *Leesville, La.*<br>James H. Hall, *Hopewell, N.J.*<br>Robert W. Hensley, *Mountain City, Tenn.*<br>James Huls, *Madison, S.D.*<br>Paul M. Kennedy, *Pittsburgh*<br>Doug Malin, *West Haverstraw, N.Y.*<br>Larry J. Marcouillier, *Harrington, Del.*<br>Silas M. Noel, *Frankfort, Ky.*<br>Willis J. Pritchard, *Oakes, N.D.*<br>Marvin C. Rodney, *Alexandria, Va.*<br>Shelli Romeu, *Tampa, Fla.*<br>David E. Shafer, *Dixon, Mo.*<br>David L. Sharber, *Mount Vernon, Ind.*<br>Terri L. Shelefontiuk, *Lakewood, Colo.*<br>George J. Sinkewitz, *Huntington, W.Va.*<br>Jerry J. Smith, *Trussville, Ala.*<br>Edwin R. Strain, *Heber Springs, Ark.*<br>Frank C. Ward, *Greer, S.C.*<br>Danny K. Wiley, *Leavenworth, Kan.* |
| **NEC LIAISON COMMITTEE** | Randall Coffman *Chairman, Russellville, Ky.*<br>Hugh E. Crooks, Jr., *Los Angeles*<br>Charles W. Goodin, *Jefferson City, Mo.*<br>John W. Hargraves, *Farmingdale, Maine*<br>Steven M. Jimmo, *Chicopee, Mass.*<br>Mickey C. Taylor, *Myrtle Beach, S.C.* |

**ADVERTISING**

| | |
|---|---|
| **ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** | Diane Andretti |
| **ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGER** | Chris Elliot |
| **CONTACT** | The American Legion Magazine<br>P.O. Box 7068<br>Indianapolis, IN 46207 |
| **ADVERTISING SALES** | James G. Elliott Company, Inc. |
| **NEW YORK** | (212) 588-9200 |
| **DETROIT** | (248) 530-0300 |
| **CHICAGO** | (312) 236-4900 |
| **LOS ANGELES** | (213) 624-0900 |

Copyright 2014 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Canada Post International Publications Mail *(Canadian Distribution)* Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office dated Dec. 22, 1991.

Printed in USA
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

*The Magazine for a Strong America*

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

**ADDRESS CHANGES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CUSTOMER SERVICE** | **(800) 433-3318**<br>cs@legion.org<br>The American Legion<br>Data Services<br>P.O. Box 1954<br>Indianapolis, IN 46206 |

*For change of address by mail, attach old address label, provide new address and membership number.*

**ARTICLE PROPOSALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **MAGAZINE** | **(317) 630-1253**<br>pr@legion.org |

| | |
|---|---|
| **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS** | **(317) 630-1200**<br>700 N. Pennsylvania St.<br>Indianapolis, IN 46204 |
| **AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE** | P.O. Box 1055<br>Indianapolis, IN 46206 |
| **EMAIL** | magazine@legion.org |
| **TELEPHONE** | (317) 630-1298 |
| **WEBSITE** | www.legion.org |
| **SUBSCRIPTIONS** | Free with membership<br>Non-members: $15<br>Foreign: $21<br>Post-sponsored and widows: $6<br>Single copies: $3.50 |

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION**

*Veterans who served at least one day of active military duty during wartime, or are serving now, are potentially eligible for membership in The American Legion. Members must have been honorably discharged or still serving honorably.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **ELIGIBILITY DATES OF MILITARY SERVICE** | Aug 2, 1990 – current<br>Dec. 20,1989 – Jan. 31, 1990<br>Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984<br>Feb. 28,1961 – May 7, 1975<br>June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955<br>Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946<br>April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918<br>*(Merchant Marines who served from Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are also eligible.)* |
| **TO JOIN** | Membership Division<br>ia@legion.org<br>(317) 630-1321<br>www.legion.org |

**PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION** | (202) 861-2700<br>var@legion.org |
| **ECONOMIC** | 202.861.2700<br>econ@legion.org |
| **FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK** | (800) 504-4098<br>familysupport@legion.org |
| **CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE** | (317) 630-1384<br>cfa@cfa-inc.org<br>www.legion.org/flag |
| **LEGION RIDERS** | (317) 630-1265<br>www.legion.org/riders<br>legionriders@legion.org |
| **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL** | (317) 630-1249<br>baseball@legion.org<br>www.legion.org/baseball |
| **BOYS NATION** | (317) 630-1207<br>boysstate-nation@legion.org |
| **JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS** | (317) 630-1249<br>juniorshooting@legion.org |
| **NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST** | (317) 630-1249<br>oratorical@legion.org |
| **USAA** | (877) 699-2654<br>www.usaa.com/legion |
| **BLOOD PROGRAM** | (202) 263-2993<br>www.legion.org/security/blood |

**SCHOLARSHIPS & CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **AMERICAN LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP** | (317) 630-1212<br>scholarships@legion.org |
| **AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND** | (317) 630-1202 |
| **CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION** | (317) 630-1202<br>www.cwf-inc.org |
| **NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND** | (317) 630-1376<br>ia@legion.org |

**AMERICAN LEGION MERCHANDISE**

| | |
|---|---|
| **ORDER PLACEMENT AND CATALOG REQUESTS** | (888) 453-4466<br>emblem.legion.org<br>emblem@legion.org |

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

| | |
|---|---|
| **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** | (317) 569-4500<br>www.legion.org/auxiliary |
| **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION** | (317) 630-1200<br>www.legion.org/sons |

## 'Long May It Wave'

I enjoyed the article by Marc Ferris (October), particularly the mention of "individualistic versions" of our national anthem. Some songs just plain should not be tampered with, and that one is at the top of the list. I cringe every time I hear some uncaring person rewrite the tune when he or she tries to sing it. It borders on sacrilege. Sing it as it was written or don't sing it at all.

*– Matt Talbert, Edgewater, Md.*

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is one of my favorite songs. To me, it is a beautiful song worthy of being our national anthem. I can sing it in its entirety and do so almost every day.

Naturally, then, it was with perplexity that I read the article's lyrics. The second stanza includes the phrase "in the stream." For years I had sung it as "on the stream." Either the article or I had to be wrong. I made a special trip to the public library to consult the World Book Encyclopedia, which also had "on the stream."

*– Carl L. Bergman, Kansas City, Mo.*

**Editor's note:** The lyrics posted at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History website have the phrase "in the stream." Go to **amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner**.

## 'Fire Fight'

While Ken Olsen's article (October) was entertaining and informative, no mention is made of the 555th Parachute Infantry, the original "smoke jumpers." This regiment was denied its chance at combat and relegated to fighting fires due to segregation and the prejudicial policies of the Army during World War II. Nevertheless, they performed admirably and with distinction under dangerous conditions.

*– Joseph Castelo, Lindenhurst, N.Y.*

I was stationed at Camp Pendleton while going through advanced infantry training in late 1958. One night, several hundred of us Marines were loaded into six-bys and taken into the mountains to fight fires. We were handed shovels, picks or axes at random and set to work on the fire line. There was a full moon that night, so we had a ghostly light to go with the fire and smoke while doing our work.

I'm sure we were not the only "ground pounders" sent into the fight over the years.

*– Verle Randolph, Owasso, Okla.*

What a shame that this article didn't mention that the North Carolina Air National Guard lost four servicemembers when their MAFFS-equipped C-130 crashed while fighting a forest fire in South Dakota on July 1, 2012.

*– Dale Bartels, Travelers Rest, S.C.*

### 'Strength Through Truth'

Thank you for John Raughter's excellent article on DINFOS (October). I believe, however, that the first school was located at Fort Slocum, N.Y.

I'm a 1966 graduate of the DINFOS broadcast course at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and served with the renowned 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam, where I was a combat correspondent and disc jockey at AFVN An Khe. There were some memorable moments during my 12-month tour in 1967, but the most remarkable was witnessing the bravery of Charles Hagemeister, medic with 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

*– Donald Swan, Shelter Cove, Calif.*

It was with fond memories that I read this article. Thanks to a Navy re-enlistment incentive, I was able to cross-rate from radioman to journalist in 1981. Then located at Fort Benjamin Harrison, DINFOS was my first exposure to a joint-service command. The instructors were all top-notch professionals who, had they been civilians, could easily have been employed by any major newspaper or broadcast network.

Many DINFOS grads went on to fame and fortune in the news media. I am not one of them, having become a postal worker after my retirement from the Navy in 1991. I will never forget, however, the great experiences I had as a Navy journalist, and neither will I forget the place where it all started.

*– Timothy M. Siggia, East Hartford, Conn.*

I read the article on DINFOS with great interest. While I never attended the school, I did serve as a public affairs representative at various units to which I was assigned over the years.

Like DINFOS graduates, I always strived to identify the subjects in photographs that I took and later had published in various periodicals. With that in mind, I offer that the article's lead-in photo is not an "Air Force video team" as indicated, but an Army team. Their black berets and distinctive combat uniforms were a dead giveaway.

*– Bill Malec, O'Fallon, Ill.*

This article gives long-overdue recognition to one of the military's most unique operations. As a 1960 graduate, I enjoyed a broad and intense curriculum, including the courses John Raughter mentioned.

We received master's-level courses in oral and print communication, international affairs, photojournalism and radio/TV production. Our faculty included nationally recognized experts, visiting professors from nearby colleges and universities, and media personalities such as noted photographer Joe Rosenthal. Students toured the *New York Times* facilities and visited most of New York City's media outlets, including NBC Radio's weekend "Monitor."

After serving at the American Forces Korea Network in Seoul (now AFN-K), my career included four decades in radio/TV and public relations, made more successful thanks to this school.

*– Jim Briggs, Centerville, Ohio*

### Export-Import Bank

How could Reps. Denny Heck and Jeb Hensarling possibly be from the same Congress, or even the same planet (Big Issues, October)? Heck says the Ex-Im Bank, though technically a government agency, is not funded by taxpayer dollars; rather, it charges fees to foreign companies to cover its costs and contributes $1 billion in surplus to reducing our national deficit. Hensarling seems convinced that the agency funnels billions of taxpayer dollars to foreign corporations, and says that if Ex-Im "followed fair accounting rules rather than government ones, its ledgers would show that it costs taxpayers $200 million each year." A far cry from the billions cited earlier.

Do these guys talk to the same people? Do they talk to each other? Does this issue not highlight the widely held belief that Congress is dysfunctional?

*– John M. Hammond, Yellow Spring, W.Va.*

### 'Thin Skin'

I can relate to Mark Fuerst's article (Living Well, October). I have had two melanomas cut out, three squamous cell carcinomas removed using the Mohs procedure, and more basal cell carcinomas removed with cryosurgery than I care to count. The article says that people exposed to Agent Orange have skin cancer rates twice as high as the general population. I was a Blue Water sailor in the Gulf of Tonkin, but VA will not allow us to receive compensation. I know I'm not alone on this issue.

*– Norman Cormican, Blanford, Ind.*

---

**_THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE_ WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS**

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.
Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.
*The American Legion Magazine*, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
magazine@legion.org

TECHNOLOGY SIMPLIFIED – BIGGER AND BETTER

# *Wow!* A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

*Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!*

**NEW**

**Now comes with...**

Larger 22-inch hi-resolution screen – easier to see

**16% more viewing area**

Simple navigation – so you never get lost

Intel® processor – lightning fast

Computer is in the monitor – No bulky tower

Advanced audio, Better speaker configuration – easier to hear

Text to Speech translation – it can even read your emails to you!

U.S. Based Customer Service

***FREE Automatic Software Updates***

> *"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time."*
> – Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen – it's now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games– you name it… and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time you took part? Call now, and a patient, knowledgeable product expert will tell you how you can try it in your home for 30 days. If you are not totally satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. Call today.

- Send & Receive Emails
- Have video chats with family and friends
- Surf the Internet:
  Get current weather and news
- Play games Online:
  Hundreds to choose from!

**Call now toll free and find out how you can get the new WOW! Computer.**

*Mention promotional code 48656 for special introductory pricing.*

**1-877-732-6115**

The WOW! Computer

© 2014 by *first*STREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

80992

# In defense of veterans preference

Let's dispel a myth about veterans preference hiring: it is not a handout. The federal government does not give jobs to veterans who lack the training and skills to perform them. If a veteran has the same qualifications as a civilian counterpart for a job opening, current law mandates the veteran get that position.

Why is this fair? Because by volunteering for U.S. military service, young men and women remove themselves from the mainstream workforce and often delay their academic or vocational educations. While they defend America at home and overseas, their high school friends are earning degrees or gaining valuable work experience.

In the course of a single four-year enlistment, a veteran's friends complete their bachelor's degrees; after two such enlistments, some of those friends have completed doctoral studies or residencies, or have been promoted by their bosses.

If an employer with a single job opening can choose between hiring someone with a degree and four years of work experience or a veteran with no degree and no civilian work experience, which would he or she be more likely to hire? Add a service-connected disability, and the veteran's chances become even more bleak.

This is why The American Legion has been loud and clear in sending a message to the Office of Personnel Management and Congress that veterans preference is a policy that must remain in place.

In August, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) released a report claiming that the laws relating to veterans preference "invite misunderstandings, confusion, perceptions of wrongdoing, and possibly actual wrongdoing – whether intentional or inadvertent."

While some abuses may exist, that does not justify scrapping any part of the veterans preference policy. Instead, those who show favoritism in federal hiring practices need to be disciplined or fired. Their poor judgment should not become an excuse to deny fair opportunity to veterans.

The MSPB also reported that veterans preference leads to resentment among some civilian federal employees, and that it somehow interferes with the hiring of women.

Frankly, those who object to the policy of veterans preference should consider joining the military and becoming veterans themselves. As for the claim that the policy interferes with the hiring of women, the MSPB has demonstrated no cause-effect relationship; it merely notes that "as use of veterans hiring authorities increased, the percentage of female new hires decreased."

Since 2000, the percentage of women in the federal workforce has dropped by only 1 percent. It's likely that decrease is related to the government hiring fewer employees in general since 2011.

Ask any post-9/11 veteran looking for a job if he or she believes that veterans preference is unfair to federal workers who never served in uniform. See what kind of answer you get.

Michael D Helm

*National Commander Michael D. Helm*

## MEMORANDA

### *MULTIPLES OF GOOD*

The national commander has set a goal for the Legion Family to raise a combined $4 million during his tenure for the various American Legion charities, including the Legacy Scholarship Fund, National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Foundation, Endowment Fund, Operation Comfort Warriors and Soldier's Wish. A general donation may be made toward the six programs, or – for the first time – divided among multiple programs.

***www.legion.org/donate***

### *LEGION SUPPORT FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS*

The call continues for personal stories of connection between The American Legion and the post-9/11 generation of veterans and their families, be it through benefits assistance, college and career opportunities, general support or more. These stories will appear in an upcoming issue of *The American Legion Magazine*, and may also be used online or in social media. Names will be used only with permission.

***www.legion.org/post911support***

***www.legiontown.org***

★★★★★ TO HONOR ALL U.S. MILITARY WAR VETERANS ★★★★★

PROUDLY ASSEMBLED IN AMERICA

# THE UNITED STATES MILITARY "NIGHT PATROL"™ WAR VETERAN TACTICAL WATCH

PERSONALIZED WITH YOUR INITIALS, SERVICE BRANCH AND YEARS SERVED

We proudly present our Night Patrol Tactical Watch which we are customizing to honor Your Service to Country as a proud War Veteran. Our special watch has features not found in other watches. It is being issued directly to all War Veterans and their Families, and will not be sold in stores.

**THE DIAL:**

- SOLID BRASS DIAL MINTED LIKE A FINE COIN WITH A DRAMATIC BACKGROUND OF GLEAMING BLACK ENAMEL
- UNIQUE WAR MEDAL & RIBBON DIALS FOR WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM, DESERT STORM, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ VETERANS. EACH DIAL IS CRAFTED IN HAND-POLISHED HIGH RELIEF & OFFICIAL RIBBON COLORS
- 24 HOUR MILITARY TIME TRACK

**THE WORKS:**

- FINE QUARTZ MOVEMENT - ACCURATE WITHIN SECONDS PER MONTH
- DATE WINDOW AT 6 O'CLOCK POSITION
- LUMINOUS HANDS FOR NIGHT VISION
- HACK FEATURE FOR SYNCHRONIZATION

VIETNAM

YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO WEAR YOUR SPECIAL SERVICE WATCH

**THE CASE AND BAND:**

- 45MM GUN METAL BLACK-PLATED ALLOY WITH PEBBLED BEZEL & STAINLESS STEEL CASE BACK
- RUGGED PU RUBBER BAND FOR COMFORT AND DURABILITY
- WATER RESISTANT TO 3ATM (100 FT)
- SCRATCH-RESISTANT, OPTICALLY CLEAR, HARD MINERAL CRYSTAL

**PERSONALIZATION:**

- ASSEMBLED AND CUSTOMIZED IN AMERICA BY SELCO OF OKLAHOMA
- CASE BACK ENGRAVED WITH YOUR INITIALS, SERVICE BRANCH AND YEARS SERVED.
- WAR MEDAL ON TIN GIFT BOX

**THE COST AND GUARANTEE:**

- THANK YOU PRICED AT $79.95*
- 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR RETURN WITHIN 30 DAYS FOR REFUND OR REPLACEMENT

KOREA

DESERT STORM

IRAQ

AFGHANISTAN

FREE MEMORIAL FLAG PIN WITH EVERY ORDER

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: **1-800-255-3048**
Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

OR, MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

☐ YES. I wish to order a Military War Veteran Watch, featuring my War Medal and Ribbon, and personalized with my initials, service branch and years served.

DIAL CHOICE: ☐VIETNAM ☐KOREA ☐WWII (not shown)
☐DESERT STORM ☐AFGHANISTAN ☐IRAQ

ENGRAVING: *(Print clearly)*
INITIALS (3): _______ _______ _______
SERVICE BRANCH: ____________________
YEARS SERVED: __________ to __________

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:
☐ Enclosed is my check or money order for $79.95* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives" as payment in full, OR
☐ Charge my credit card $79.95* per watch as payment in full.

* Plus $14.95 per watch for shipping & handling. PA res. add 6% ($5.70) sales tax.

INCLUDES HANDSOME TIN GIFT BOX WITH YOUR WAR MEDAL!

CREDIT CARD: ORDER BY DECEMBER 12TH FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!
☐VISA ☐MASTER CARD ☐AMEX ☐DISCOVER Exp.____/____
CC#:______________________________
CSC #__________ Signature: ____________________

SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
Name: ______________________________
Address: ______________________________
City:____________________ State:______ Zip:______
Phone # (_________)____________________
Email: ______________________________

©2014 ICM WNPWAT-ALM-1214

VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM

# BILL CZMYR

Bill Czmyr doesn't take no for an answer, especially when he's working on behalf of veterans.

His post – Post 15 in Jewett City, Conn. – was forced to close in 1993. That Memorial Day, he placed flowers on veterans' graves, working with another member who complained that no one was around to raise the colors.

That's all Czmyr needed to hear. He immediately began to revitalize the post, raise money to erase its debt, and repaint the building inside and out.

"Some said, 'Bill, you are going to need a miracle,'" says Czmyr of the post, which reopened in 1995. "They used to laugh. When we were about to open, I said, 'Hey, about that miracle ....'"

And thanks to Czmyr and others, 18 once-homeless veterans live in individual, two-room furnished apartments in a building attached to the post. They have access to medical care, shopping and a public library.

The residents, many of whom were homeless for a decade or longer, are grateful for their new home and what Czmyr's post has done for them, calling it a blessing.

"I always say that I like to help veterans," he says. "It was the most logical thing to do. Veterans need a place to live."

*"Veterans need a place to live."*

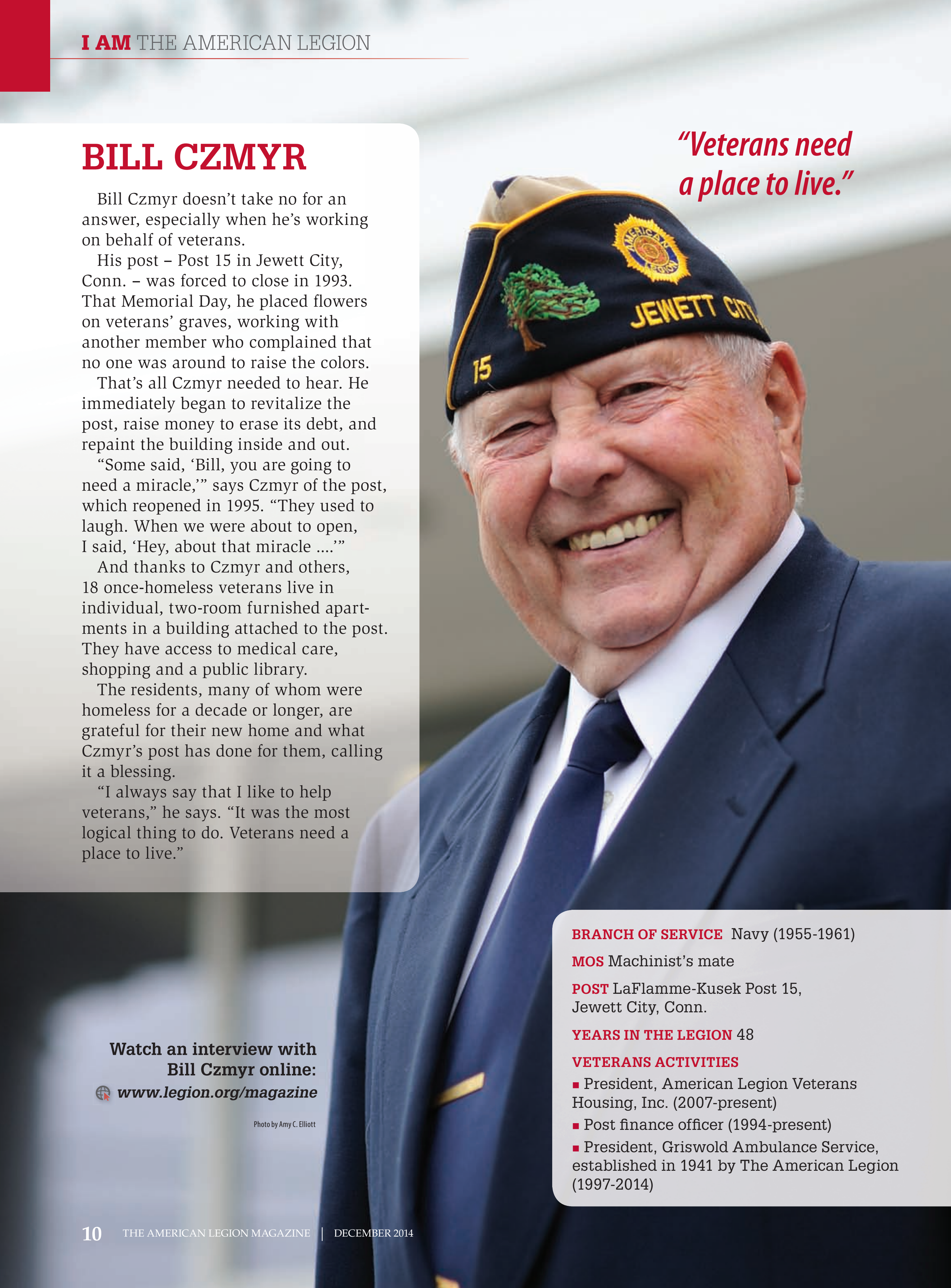


Photo by Amy C. Elliott

**BRANCH OF SERVICE** Navy (1955-1961)

**MOS** Machinist's mate

**POST** LaFlamme-Kusek Post 15, Jewett City, Conn.

**YEARS IN THE LEGION** 48

**VETERANS ACTIVITIES**

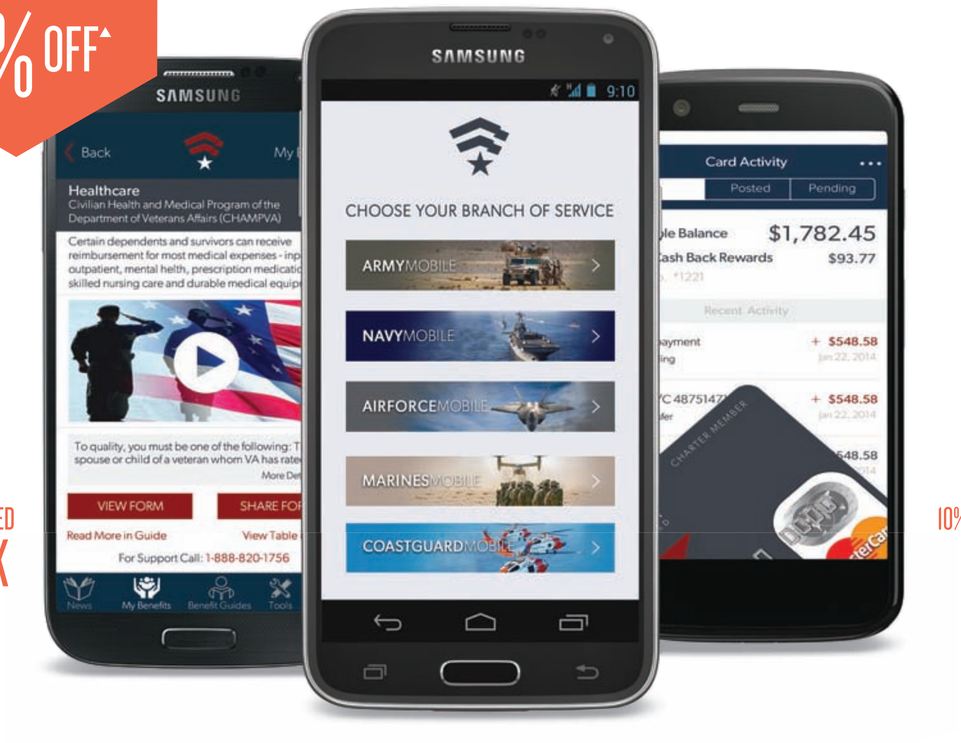
- President, American Legion Veterans Housing, Inc. (2007-present)
- Post finance officer (1994-present)
- President, Griswold Ambulance Service, established in 1941 by The American Legion (1997-2014)

**Watch an interview with Bill Czmyr online:**
***www.legion.org/magazine***

# GREAT SERVICE FOR OUR COUNTRY DESERVES GREAT SERVICE IN RETURN.

DEFENSE MOBILE

THE RADIOSHACK® MILITARY DISCOUNT
10% OFF▲



EARN MILITARY-FOCUSED
CASH BACK
REWARDS*

10% OF NET PROFITS GO TO
MILITARY
COMMUNITIES

radioshack.

Introducing Defense Mobile at RadioShack®. Defense Mobile caters exclusively to all branches of the military community—ARMYmobile, NAVYmobile, MARINESmobile, AIRFORCEmobile and COASTGUARDmobile. Veterans, military service members and their families are provided with the latest smartphones and nationwide 4G LTE service from top wireless carriers in America. Plus 10% of net profits go to military communities. Sign up at RadioShack, the only store where you can get all of the top smartphones like the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 with 10% off.

Visit our stores or RadioShack.com/DefenseMobile.

▲Offer good at participating stores with valid military ID, Homeland Security ID or veteran discharge papers. Offer good at RadioShack.com by submitting a valid .mil or .gov email address to generate a unique promo code valid for one use only. Excludes Apple®, Beats by Dr. Dre®, Fitbit and Quirky products, airtime, gift/entertainment cards, services, special orders, refurbished items and financed devices. May not be combined with certain other offers, including employee discount. Cannot be used for commercial sales. Void where prohibited. *When you use your MILICASH Prepaid MasterCard® at participating retailers.

**ARMY**MOBILE **NAVY**MOBILE

**AIRFORCE**MOBILE **MARINES**MOBILE **COASTGUARD**MOBILE

# Arm Syrian rebels to fight Islamic State

## SUPPORT

**Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo.**

■ Hartzler is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

You have probably seen reports of the gruesome beheadings and mass slaughter of innocent civilians. Whatever you may know of the Islamic State (also known as ISIL or ISIS), one thing is for certain: it poses a real and serious threat.

Its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has laid out the group's position plainly, stating, "We're coming for you, Barack Obama." In a short amount of time, the Islamic State has gained control of large swathes of land and advanced weaponry. It is recruiting thousands of foreign fighters, and even some Americans with U.S. passports who could bring the fight to our homeland. The Islamic State has seized banks and taken over oil fields to fund its activities, accumulating vast sums of money. And it continues to recruit, often paying young people a relatively handsome salary to fight for its misguided cause. Its goal is to create a caliphate and rule with an extremist ideology in which freedom and democracy have no place.

The Islamic State is putting us and our allies in the crosshairs, and it must be stopped. Our national interests, the lives of innocent civilians and the future of the region are at stake.

On Sept. 10, the president outlined his plan to the American people and asked for Congress' support. He rightly came to us for approval and, in bipartisan fashion, we acted. We approved the first stages of a plan to equip and train moderate Syrian forces to help fight this dreadful menace. The measure we approved also requires congressional oversight as we move forward.

Our actions give us a needed first step – one that we will revisit periodically – in combating the Islamic State. We have to recognize that the threat, the mission and the situation may change. As a nation, we must remain vigilant.

**THE HEART OF THE ISSUE**

***At the president's urging, Congress voted to arm moderate Syrian rebels to counter the threat of the Islamic State. Opponents fear the weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists.***

## OPPOSE

**Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas**

■ Gohmert is vice chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.

As news of the Islamic State's gruesome beheadings continues to horrify, know that the Obama administration has not diminished terrorism. Rather, it has been unintentionally but directly helping radical Islamists.

While encouraging an Arab Spring, the administration pushed for removal of U.S. ally Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. In Libya, former terrorist supporter Moammar Gaddafi reformed when we invaded Iraq in 2003, becoming an ally. But this administration bombed him and supplied weapons to defeat him.

During the Arab Spring, we knew the rebels included al-Qaida elements and we knew we should not be arming them. Then, after Gaddafi was out of power, the United States started shipping weapons to the Free Syrian Army (FSA). Vast numbers of those weapons have fallen into the hands of the Islamic State – the same hands that have been terrorizing Christians and Jews.

Whether or not we should have helped Syrian rebels three years ago, we now know that FSA has significant numbers of men who do not want to fight radical Islamists but only want to eliminate Assad. Without defending Assad, many Syrian Christians have affirmed that he allowed them to worship freely, while the rebels have terrorized Christians.

Unfortunately, many in Congress voted to authorize Obama's spending $500 million to equip the Free Syrian Army. I could not vote to add any more casualties to his failed policies.

Several factions within FSA have pledged loyalty to the Islamic State and given it large numbers of weapons. We do not have to give weapons to our enemies when they are willing to hate us for free.

---

**CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

The Honorable *(name)*, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121
The Honorable *(name)*, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

# Safety never felt so good™

**LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS**
Call for more details

Safe Step Tubs have received the Ease-of-Use Commendation from the Arthritis Foundation

Financing available with approved credit

**A Safe Step Walk-In Tub** will offer independence to those seeking a safe and easy way to bathe right in the convenience and comfort of their own home. Constructed and built right here in America for safety and durability from the ground up, and with more standard features than any other tub.

- ✓ **A carefully engineered dual hydro-massage and air bubble jets– both strategically placed to target sore muscles and joints, offering life-changing therapeutic relief**
- ✓ **A NEW heated seat providing warmth from beginning to end**
- ✓ **The highest quality tub complete with the most comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub**
- ✓ **Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price**

SAFE STEP®
WALK-IN TUB CO.
www.SafeStepTub.com

You'll agree – there just isn't a better walk-in tub on the market.
So take your first step towards feeling great and stay in the home you love. **Give us a call today!**

**For your FREE information kit and DVD, and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free**

**1-800-787-5674**

www.SafeStepTub.com

**$750 OFF**
**when you mention this ad**
for a limited time only
**Call Toll-Free 1-800-787-5674**

# WHAT YOUR KNEES NEED

Media Bakery

BY JUDITH HURLEY

For the aches and pains of knee arthritis, movement is medicine. Stretching, strength training and low-impact activities like walking have been proven to help people with arthritis function better day to day. But too much exercise can make arthritic joints sore. A recent study set out to pinpoint just how much movement is needed to reduce disability and improve mobility. The answer, it turns out, is 6,000 steps a day.

Nearly 1,800 participants in the Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study, all with knee arthritis or at risk for the condition, were asked to wear a pedometer and log their daily steps for a week. Two years later, they logged their steps again, and researchers assessed their physical function. The results, published in *Arthritis Care & Research*, showed that participants who averaged 6,000 steps a day were more mobile and less likely to have problems with walking, climbing stairs and standing than those who averaged fewer steps.

Six thousand steps is about three miles, or an hour of walking. While that may seem like a lot, every step taken during the day counts, including those taken around the house or at work. Even sedentary people accumulate 2,500 or more steps a day from routine activity, so reaching the 6,000 threshold is less daunting than it might seem at first glance. And it isn't all or nothing. As few as 3,000 steps a day helped prevent arthritis symptoms from worsening, and every 1,000 steps reduced functional limitation by 16 to 18 percent, says lead author Daniel White, a research assistant professor and physical therapist at Boston University.

Cartilage – the hard, slippery coating at the ends of

## Online library VA's latest communication tool

Last year, VA launched the Veterans Health Library (VHL), a comprehensive online tool designed to empower veterans and their caregivers by giving them reliable, wide-ranging health information.

"The library is another example of how VA is leading the way in preventive health care for veterans," says Linda Kinsinger, chief consultant for preventive medicine at the Veterans Health Administration's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. "Resources like the VHL are helping us deliver first-class, patient-centered care to those who have served."

The VHL provides free, round-the-clock resources reviewed by VA subject-matter experts, on topics ranging from PTSD and combat-related traumatic brain injury to Agent Orange and military sexual trauma. Consistent with VA policies and clinical practice guidelines, the VHL currently offers more than 1,500 health sheets, 150 videos, go-to guides, and online workbooks with audio and graphics.

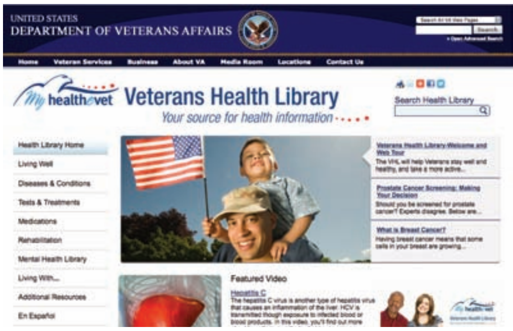
Veterans are encouraged to use the VHL to prepare for their health-care appointments, then get additional information after meeting with their providers. The system is continually improving through testing and feedback from veterans, family members and VHA health-care teams.

Learn more about VA's Veterans Health Library:

**www.veteranshealthlibrary.org**

Build an online personal health record:

**www.myhealth.va.gov**



Veterans Health Library Welcome and Web Tour
The VHL will help Veterans stay well and healthy, and take a more active...

Prostate Cancer Screening: Making Your Decision
Should you be screened for prostate cancer? Experts disagree. Below are...

What is Breast Cancer?
Having breast cancer means that some cells in your breast are growing...

Hepatitis C
The hepatitis C virus is another type of hepatitis virus that causes an inflammation of the liver. HCV is transmitted though exposure to infected blood or blood products. In this video, you'll find out more

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

bones – normally cushions joints, but is worn and frayed by osteoarthritis. Walking brings blood flow and nutrients to the cartilage, helping it stay healthy. Walking also strengthens the muscles around joints. Stronger muscles carry more body weight, taking the load off knees and protecting knee cartilage from wear and tear. According to the Arthritis Foundation, exercise not only wards off disability but also reduces pain and fatigue and improves balance and coordination.

In a national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two-thirds of adults with arthritis reported walking less than 90 minutes a week, and more than half said they don't walk at all outside of routine activities. Some with osteoarthritis think that if their joints hurt, they shouldn't walk, but experts disagree. In fact, being sedentary leads to loss of muscle strength and reduced range of motion, which results in increased disability over time. Regular walking can break this cycle. Although you may experience soreness as you become more active, stick with it. Soreness is soon replaced by pain relief and better physical function.

Nearly 23 million adult Americans have arthritis, and one in two will develop symptoms of knee arthritis by 85. Fortunately, something as simple and free as walking can help keep this painful condition at bay.

*Judith Hurley specializes in writing about health and medicine.*

## Get in the walking habit

**To start a regular walking routine to improve mobility and reduce symptoms of knee arthritis:**

- **Plan ahead and choose a time of day that's convenient for you to walk.**
- **Wear comfortable shoes.**
- **Use a pedometer or step counter to figure out your "baseline" number of steps.**
- **Increase your steps gradually, working up to 3,000 or more on most days as an initial goal.**
- **If fatigue is a problem, break your walking into 10-minute chunks.**
- **If you have hip, foot or stability problems, walk on a level surface.**
- **Use a walking stick or walking poles to take the load off your knees.**
- **Monitor your pain during and after exercise. If you're new to exercise, it's typical to feel some soreness the next day. If you are so sore it's hard to move, you overdid it. Taking excess pain medication before exercise may mask the pain and result in overexercise.**
- **If activity is especially painful or if you've been sedentary for a long time, talk with your doctor before starting an exercise program.**

## Ice Bucket windfall

The ALS Association – a nonprofit organization dedicated to treating and curing amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease – is in possession of a huge windfall after a fundraising idea went viral in social media earlier this year.

"We were as surprised as you that (the Ice Bucket Challenge) caught on as it did," the association's website states in a message to donors. "It has such humble beginnings, having been created by people living with ALS and their families as a way to raise awareness – in essence, to give a 'wake-up' call to everyone about ALS."

The association's full plan for the influx of donations was to be unveiled in November. Its top priorities are research and drug development.

ALS is a neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Veterans are more likely than nonveterans to be diagnosed; why is just one of many questions surrounding the disease, which has no known cause and no known cure.

**Learn more about the Ice Bucket Challenge online:**

***www.alsa.org***

**PHOTO:** *Members of the American Legion Family join Ohio vice commanders in accepting the Ice Bucket Challenge.* Photo by Lucas Carter

| | |
|---|---|
| **$115 million** | Total raised by the Ice Bucket Challenge (so far) |
| **$25 million** | Typical annual budget of the ALS Association |
| **40 to 70** | Age range for most ALS diagnoses |
| **5,600** | Number of Americans diagnosed with ALS each year |
| **30,000** | Approximate number of Americans with ALS at any given time |
| **2 to 5** | Average life expectancy after diagnosis in years, although more than half of those diagnosed with ALS live more than three years |

For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious,** and rarely may lead to death.
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and** take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. **Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.** While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:
  - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**
- **Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma).** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).

# I was taking warfarin. But ELIQUIS was a better find.

## I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

1. ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
2. ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
3. Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

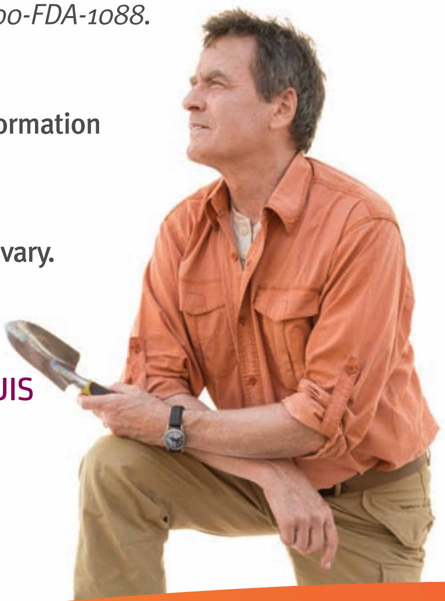
ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

## Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

- **Before you take ELIQUIS,** tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.
- **Do not take ELIQUIS if you** currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

*You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.*



**Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.**

**Individual results may vary.**

**Visit ELIQUIS.COM or call 1-855-ELIQUIS**

©2014 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
432US14BR01976-01-01 11/14

Eliquis®
(apixaban) tablets 5mg 2.5mg

# IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

℞ ONLY

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss).

## What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

**For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation: Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

**ELIQUIS can cause bleeding** which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

**You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and** take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

**While taking ELIQUIS:**

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

**Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:**

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

**ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**

**Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma).** People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS (apixaban) and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

## What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.
- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery.
- treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) or lungs (pulmonary embolism), and reduce the risk of them occurring again.

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

## Who should not take ELIQUIS?

**Do not take ELIQUIS if you:**

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

## What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

**Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:**

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have **any** surgery, medical or dental procedure.

**Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including** prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS (apixaban) works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

**How should I take ELIQUIS?**

**Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor.** Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS. Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

## What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - chest pain or tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

Manufactured by:
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
Marketed by:
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
and
Pfizer Inc
New York, New York 10017 USA

COUMADIN® is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company.

Bristol-Myers Squibb | PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

*This independent, non-profit organization provides assistance to qualifying patients with financial hardship who generally have no prescription insurance. Contact 1-800-736-0003 or visit www.bmspaf.org for more information.*

© 2014 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
ELIQUIS is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Based on 1289808A1 / 1289807A1 / 1298500A1 / 1295958A1
August 2014
432US14BR00770-07-01

# VA wrestles with caregiver support

**BY TOM PHILPOTT**

A fresh audit of VA's three-year-old family caregiver program for severely and seriously injured post-9/11 veterans found checkered support across the department, hobbling its effectiveness.

A central caregiver program office relies on hastily adopted information technology that must be replaced, auditors said. Program managers are unable to track participating caregivers or their workloads to monitor the program effectively.

The audit by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) also focused on burdens the program imposes on VA physicians and nurses who need to be involved in assessing patients' eligibility and caregiver needs. Some have rebelled against the extra work, declining to be part of teams that must visit homes and recommend appropriate tiers of individual caregiver support.

Media Bakery

The Post-9/11 Family Caregiver Program provides benefits unknown to past generations of caregivers and wounded warriors. It includes caregiver training to help ensure patient safety, cash stipends to compensate at least partially for their time and effort, caregiver health coverage if they have none, and periods of respite to avoid burnout.

To control costs, Congress limited most benefits to caregivers of veterans severely or seriously injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Not eligible are severely disabled veterans injured before 9/11 or post-9/11 veterans with severe service-connected illnesses.

Even with those restrictions, Congress and VA substantially underestimated the number of veterans who qualify, GAO stated.

In 2010, while the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee shaped a compromise bill, proponents bristled at an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office that almost 49,000 veterans would qualify. The committee pointed to a different estimate, from the Center for Naval Analyses, that fewer than 800 caregivers would qualify.

A key staffer for then-committee chairman Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, said the original intent was to support young spouses or parents of the most severely wounded veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who wanted to care for loved ones at home rather than rely on institutional care.

In 2011, when VA unveiled implementing regulations, veterans groups – including The American Legion – protested that it would exclude caregivers of veterans with TBI and severe PTSD, so changes were made. When the program launched later that year, VA estimated that fewer than 4,000 caregivers would qualify by September 2014.

However, by last May, more than 15,600 had been approved from an applicant pool of 30,400, according to GAO. Roughly 500 caregivers are approved monthly, with no slowdown in sight.

More surprising is that 92 percent of approved applicants are caring for veterans with mental health diagnoses, with 63 percent having PTSD – a development Akaka never envisioned.

Because VA significantly underestimated the eligibility pool, VA medical centers have been unprepared to meet program demand for primary care physicians and nurses to visit homes and assess needs of caregiver support.

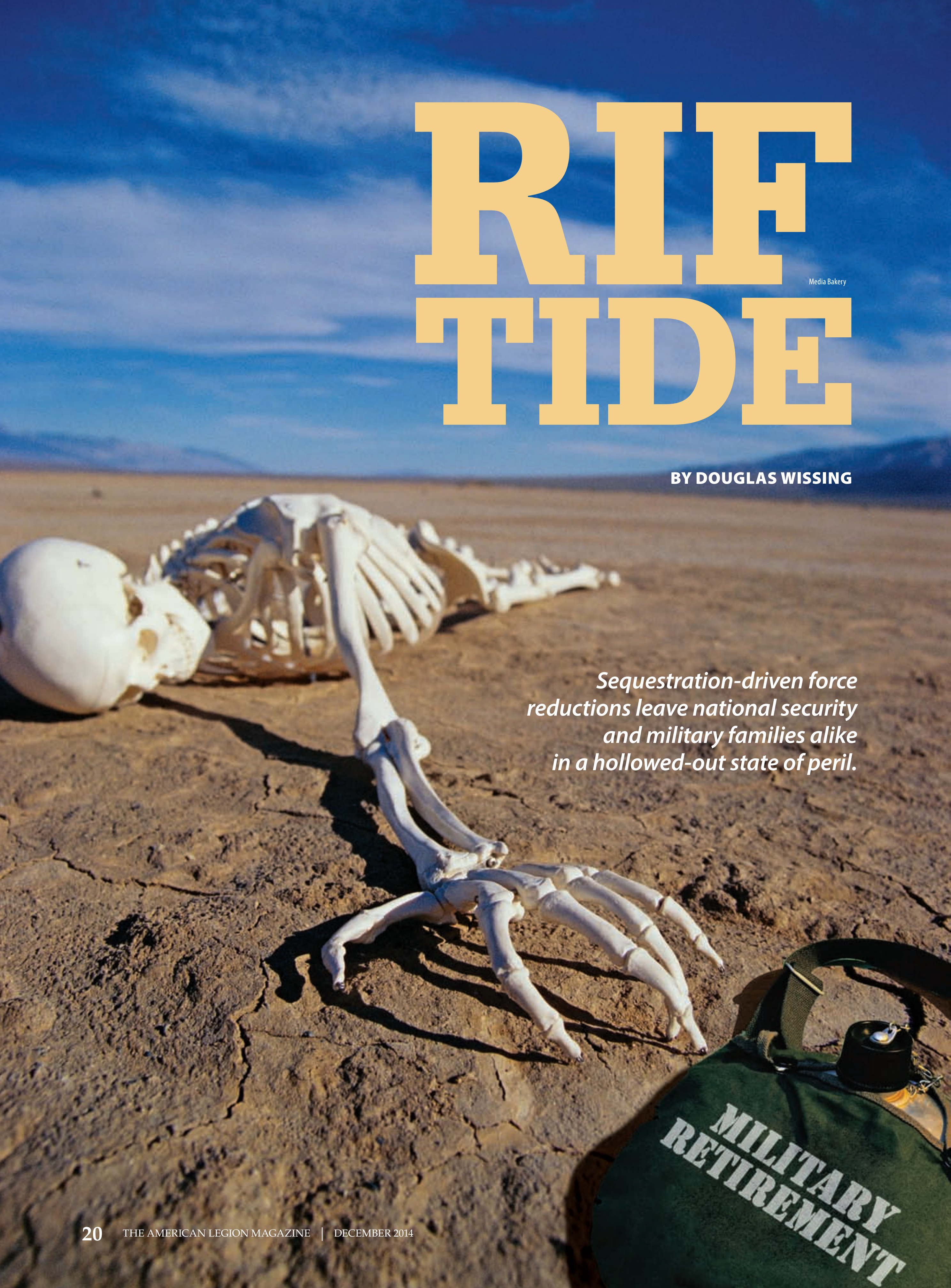
Congress set aside $1.5 billion to fund the program through fiscal 2015, so money exists for medical centers to hire more caregiver support coordinators (CSCs), those responsible for running the program locally, including arranging stipends and CHAMPVA coverage for eligible caregivers.

But GAO reports that some centers are reluctant to hire sufficient coordinators for fear that money available now will disappear in time, forcing them to use dollars earmarked for more critical priorities.

This uneven support affects the ratio of coordinators to caregivers across VA. GAO found one coordinator for six caregivers in Fayetteville, Ark., and one to support 251 caregivers at the Atlanta VA medical center. Some coordinators are so busy that they can't return calls from caregivers.

VA officials agreed with GAO's findings and promised to adopt its recommendations for improving program support, including buying a new IT system. Until then, Congress is unlikely to expand the program to help earlier generations of warrior caregivers.

*Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for more than 30 years.*



# RIF TIDE

Media Bakery

**BY DOUGLAS WISSING**

*Sequestration-driven force reductions leave national security and military families alike in a hollowed-out state of peril.*

THE MAJOR is from a military family that goes back at least three generations. "It kind of runs in the blood," he says. Hooked on the idea of a military career from boyhood, he graduated from West Point right after 9/11 and went directly to war. He served nearly 100 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. By 2007, he'd been in combat for one third of his six years on active duty. A year later, he was thinking about leaving the service.

"By that time, my son was 6," he explains. "I figured out that I'd spent maybe half his life with him at home. That was a pretty tough realization." The major and his wife discussed their options and made their choice: "We're a patriotic family. We decided to stay in for a while."

Not long after, a Career Field Designation Board switched him from combat duty to operational support. "It was really frustrating," he says. "I was no longer a leader of troops. I was in a depression for a year. The lack of control, the arbitrary decision-making – suddenly they say, 'You are no longer an infantryman.'"

But the major took up his new duties with professionalism. Like so many career military personnel with families, he planned to serve 20 years and then get a General Schedule (GS) job. "I was going for the coveted double-dip retirement," he says, laughing.

Then sequestration hit.

He watched in 2011 when government-employed civilians took 20 percent pay cuts. "Morale was in the toilet," he says.

Sequestration-mandated cuts next hit the armed forces. Drawdowns were imminent. "That was a wake-up call," the major says. He realized his career plan was being overtaken by events. "Who knows what size the Army will be in five years? I don't know if I want to put my family through that. I'm taking a look around."

After more than a dozen years of war, America's armed forces are now fighting another battle: sequestration-driven drawdowns. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno termed the dramatic force reductions "a very important inflection point," an arid phrase that fails to fully reflect the turmoil visited upon career military men and women who were called to duty by the horrors of 9/11 but now face an uncertain future.

Polls show that the 2.6 million veterans who served during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars take pride in their service, even as they confront major problems with service-related physical and mental health claims, VA responsiveness, civilian employment transitions and relationships disrupted by multiple deployments. Having already suffered 51,000 casualties and epidemic PTSD and traumatic brain injury, they're now contending with relentless systemic momentum for a reduction in force (RIF).

Many veterans are feeling raw from the experience. Former Navy sailor Michael Richards spoke for many after he was "riffed" two years into a six-year contract. He indicated that his decade of service included top evaluations and 2009 Command Sailor of the Year honors.

"I do not mind being separated from the military in the middle of my contract *if* it was done fair," he wrote. He noted that sailors are obligated to serve out their contracts, with the only option being "buy it out or go to jail." But the government can terminate sailors' contracts anytime: "Just bam and you are done."

He described a Navy-funded private contractor program to help separated sailors find jobs as "the biggest scam of all," stating that retired master chiefs fecklessly served as the contractor's "very counterproductive (employment counselors). The only thing they offered was involuntary separation pay. Guess what? You have to pay it back."

"Sequestration" is another bland bureaucratic term that masks the wrenching reality of rapidly declining defense spending. Spawned during one of the congressional budget impasses, the Budget Control Act of 2011 dictated governmentwide automatic spending reductions. Their effect on military readiness is apparent, as summarized in a recent Department of Defense report titled "Estimated Impacts of Sequestration-Level Funding."

The report indicates that sequestration-level budgets will trigger reductions of almost $600 billion in defense spending, resulting in "significant cuts to forces, modernization and readiness." Training will be slashed, equipment levels reduced and maintenance deferred to dysfunctional levels. Installations will have sharply reduced services. Military families' quality-of-life support will decline.

The armed forces will hit historic lows. From a post-9/11 peak of 570,000 troops, the Army will be further cut from the current fiscal 2015 target level of 490,000 to 420,000; some say it may shrink to 395,000 – the smallest Army since before World War II. "Ongoing reductions coupled with sequestration-level cuts over the next seven years will result in a reduction of 150,000 soldiers, 687 aircraft and up to 46 percent of the brigade combat teams from the active army," Odierno told a congressional committee. Even without sequestration cuts, 500 colonels, 700 lieutenant colonels, and 2,000 captains and majors will be retired or separated from the Army by 2015.

Despite a strategic directive to rebalance to Asia and the Pacific, the Marine Corps and Navy are being hit hard, too. The Marines will be cut to a total active force of 175,000. The Navy will lose combat ships, including one aircraft carrier. The Air Force faces reduced tanker fleets and flying hours.

The National Guard and reserve forces will also see substantial force reductions. The DoD report says that sequestration budgets will dictate 43,000 fewer Guard soldiers and 20,000 fewer reservists.

It's a harrowing tale of political brinksmanship leading to potentially disastrous consequences for the nation. According to the report, the sequestration-driven cuts will "significantly increase risks both in the short and long term" to U.S. war-fighting capacity. An undermanned, undertrained, under-resourced force, meanwhile, confronts multiple threats in an increasingly insecure world. Pentagon officials say sequestration-related budgeting cuts are "hollowing the force."

"These are the blunt tools that sequestration imposed," says William "Jim" Haynes, who served as DoD general counsel under President George W. Bush and General Counsel of the Department of the Army under President George H.W. Bush. He now serves on The American Legion's Veterans Policy Oversight Committee. "We're running significant risks, and that's just on the strategic level. Then there's the impact on the men and women who are serving, and on their families."

The Congressional Budget Office calculated that the average active-duty U.S. soldier in 2014 has a total compensation package of about $99,000, including health care, retirement pay, child care, free/subsidized food, housing and education. Under sequestration budgeting, support for TRICARE, commissary subsidies and Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) will be reduced. The military press now spotlights articles written for spouses struggling with "heart-wrenching" readjustment after families are separated from the service.

Even with reduced base support, a riffed E-4 with a wife and a couple of kids will have trouble replacing the military compensation package in today's fragile economy. For that matter, riffed majors, captains and sergeants who planned on military careers will also be challenged to smoothly transition into the civilian economy; recent studies indicate it may even be harder than they anticipated.

Many of these post-9/11 career soldiers were in it for the long haul. A recent *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation survey of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans found that 48 percent of those polled expected to serve for 20 years or more. These men and women made a huge commitment to the armed services. But with the effects of sequestration clouding their career paths, there is tension in the ranks.

According to the survey, 43 percent of the veterans anticipate a difficult transition to civilian life. An earlier Pew Research Center survey likewise reported that 44 percent of veterans who served for 10 years after 9/11 found re-entry to be difficult, a far higher percentage than Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. According to the *Post*/Kaiser report, nearly a quarter of enlisted troops think their military skills will have no value in civilian employment, though only 2 percent of officers feel their skills won't be valued in the civilian job market.

But it's worse than that. A recent CompTIA report, "Military Career Path Study," revealed that veterans experienced twice as many challenges as they anticipated in transitioning into the civilian workplace. While younger veterans understandably experienced greater challenges in translating their military skills to civilian jobs, veterans across the board – including career officers – found the transition to civilian life to be far more difficult than expected, particularly in the critical areas of salary and finding work that matches skills and experience.

The National Guard officer went through two Army selection boards, which promoted him with flying colors. But five months later, he was suddenly "non-retained" – handed his walking papers, basically. "I find myself looking for a job," he says ruefully, although he's finding that civilian employers are definitely interested in his unique force-development skills. "They look at my skill set and say, 'How can the Guard let you go?'"

Involuntary separation is a shock. "You go from feeling like, 'I just went through two boards and did fine, and now I'm out,'" the officer says. "What are you grading on? What standards are you using?" He says the requirement to cut

Advertisement

DiamondAura®
Scintillating marquise-cut DiamondAura center stone, 9mm x 4.5mm
90 brilliant-cut DiamondAura rounds
.925 sterling silver setting fits whole ring sizes 5-10

# Does This Ring Make My Wallet Look Fat?

## *Spend 100% LESS on Luxury with FREE* Jewelry... only from Stauer*

Buy now, pay never. Call us today and we'll send you the .925 sterling silver and DiamondAura® ***Mirador Marquise Ring*** (a $395 value†) for **FREE!**** That's right... **FREE**. It's true. We cut the ring price 100% and you pay only $19.95 for shipping & processing *(*see details below)*. There are no tricks. You aren't obligated to spend another dime... although we make it VERY hard to resist.

**Why give away jewelry?** We want your attention. We want you to take a closer look at our 8 million carats of rubies, emeralds and sapphires and vintage-inspired watches. Once you discover "Luxury for Less," we're betting that you'll fall in love with Stauer.

COMPARE FOR YOURSELF AND SEE!

| | Mined D-Flawless Diamond | DiamondAura Compares to: |
|---|---|---|
| Hardness | Cuts Glass | Cuts Glass ✓ |
| Cut (58 facets) | Brilliant | Brilliant ✓ |
| Color | "D" Colorless | Colorless ✓ |
| Clarity | "IF" Flawless | Clear ✓ |
| Dispersion/Fire | 0.044 | 0.066 ✓ |
| 1 ctw ring price | $22,000+ | FREE |

If we had our way, we'd send your ***Mirador Marquise Ring*** with no shipping charge. Unfortunately, the rising cost of gas and freight makes that impossible. But, to sweeten the deal, we'll include a **$20 Stauer Gift Coupon** with your **FREE** ring. More proof that true luxury is money in the bank!

**Mirador Marquise Ring** (1 ¼ ctw)
**Appraised at $395†**
***Your Cost With Offer Code*—FREE***
***pay only shipping & processing of $19.95.**

**Stauer®**
14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. FMR190-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
Rating of A+

*You must use the offer code below to receive this special free ring.*

**1-888-324-2060**

**Offer Code FMR190-01**
Please mention this code when you call.

*Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™*

*† For more information concerning the appraisal, visit **http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp**.*

* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV, OR, SC, VA and ID. These state residents will be charged one cent ($.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address. *** Free is only for customers who use the offer code versus the original Stauer.com price.*

headquarters staff by 20 to 25 percent has precipitated a "self-preserving attitude" among senior-officer-heavy selection boards, resulting in inordinate cuts among newer officers. "They're getting rid of new blood."

It's even harder on the families. "Sometimes soldiers are getting their pink slips while they are serving overseas," he says. "Just moved, kids in new schools, then you get the pink slip. That can cause a lot of strain for folks."

Even if promising young officers are retained, their career paths are impeded by budget cuts. For example, one National Guard officer managed to get a slot for the Fort Benning Ranger course, an important achievement for advancement. But after putting his civilian job search on hold to do pre-training at Fort Benning, he learned that the congressional budget freeze at the end of the last fiscal year cost him the opportunity.

G. Michael "Mike" Schlee is chairman of the American Legion National Security Commission. Working with DoD from 1968 to 2007, Schlee was a witness to drawdowns following the Vietnam War and the Cold War. "We've never done this right," he says. "We have never laid out a correct, clear strategy and made the effort to match it with troop numbers."

Pointing to inconsistencies between a U.S. strategy that envisions a robust influence in the East and budgets that slash troops and ship numbers to pre-World War I levels, he says, "The strategies and proposals don't match up. What is our role in the world, what are the threats we face, and what are the troops and equipment we need?"

Schlee is concerned about the programs in place to assist veterans leaving service, terming them "token readjustment." He notes that an estimated 20 percent to 40 percent of post-9/11 war veterans are suffering from residual PTSD. "We aren't preparing men and women to re-enter the economy. There are transition problems."

Lt. Col. Larry Glasscock is one of the career military men leaving on good terms. He's retiring after 20 successful years in the Army, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and serving as regiment commander of Alpha 3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry. "The Army's been good to me, I won't lie," he says. The father of three daughters, he is planning on starting his own high-end brewpub and moonlighting as a skydiving instructor. "I don't want to be a government employee," he says. "I don't want to be one of those Army guys who can't let it go."

Though he is voluntarily separating, the consequences of the drawdown concern Glasscock. "We're in strategic-level turmoil," he says. "We are cutting to levels that are dangerously close to where we won't be able to do what we need to do." And many senior noncommissioned officers, captains and majors are paying the price. "There are going to be a lot of people who want to serve but will be pushed out. It's a shame."

At a time when 65 percent of military men and women are married, Schlee points to the force reduction's effect on military families, some of whom have endured more than a decade of service and multiple tours of war duty. Against the backdrop of downsizing, there's an increase in suicide rates and anecdotal reports of increased spousal abuse.

Many commentators worry that sequestration-related involuntary separations will have a negative effect on the volunteer Army. Has a trust been broken? Will a tsunami of RIF notices affect the viability of the all-volunteer force? What advice will riffed veterans give their children when they come of military age?

Former Army officer and Iraq veteran Phillip Carter directs the Center for New American Security's veterans research project. "Today's military is comprised of men and women who have fought 13 years of war," he says. "They will feel betrayed if they are pushed out against their will."

So how is the reduction in force being administered? As in previous downsizing, there is a greater emphasis on quickly reducing force levels than how to go about it. "There is no single force-shaping method among the choice of accessions, promotions, retention and separations that will achieve the Army's end-strength goals," Army spokesman Paul Prince admits. "We will be required to use involuntary separation measures now and in the future." As with the earlier drawdowns, there will be a cost: "Unfortunately, we will have to separate many good soldiers from our active-duty ranks because of our historically high-quality force."

As part of the Army's fiscal 2015 accelerated drawdown, 5,000 officers and 20,000 enlisted members will be forced to leave active duty, either through involuntary separation or early retirement. Many are soldiers with good records who are fully qualified for continued service. Unlike the 1990s drawdown, military officials do not intend to use buyouts.

# *Therapeutic*
# Diabetic Comfort Slippers

Makes Everyone's Sore,
Swollen, Sensitive Feet Feel Great!

*Step into a*
*Cloud!*

Dept. 69233 © 2014 Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr.)

**Great for Men and Women**

**ONLY**
**$16.99 pair**
**FREE SHIPPING**
**SAVE $3.00 Off Original Price**
was ~~$19.99~~

**CHOOSE BLACK OR TAN!**

Receive a
**FREE SURPRISE GIFT**
With Every Order

Call Toll Free **800.530.2689** www.DreamProducts.com **web offers may vary**

Therapeutic Comfort Slippers are a blessing for diabetic foot problems, swelling and bunions – but they make all feet feel great the instant you slip them on! Cloud-soft, plush fleece lining and cushiony memory foam cradle feet in comfort and provide shock absorption. Hook 'n loop strap closure makes them easy to put on or take off and adjust fit. High ankle cut gives you great support. Plus, non-skid safety soles let you wear them indoors or outdoors. Imported.

***Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back***

**Diabetic Comfort Slippers** INDICATE NUMBER OF PAIRS ORDERED UNDER SIZE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| #306 Ladies' | S (5-6) | M (6½-7½) | L (8-9) | XL (9½-10½) |
| TAN | | | | |
| BLACK | | | | |
| #307 Men's | S (6-7) | M (7½-8½) | L (9-10) | XL (11-12) |
| TAN | | | | |
| BLACK | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| ____ Pr(s) Diabetic Comfort Slippers @ $16.99 | $ |
| **CA residents must add 7.5% sales tax** | $ |
| FREE Regular Shipping | $ **FREE** |
| Add $2.00 handling no matter how many ordered | $ 2.00 |
| ☐ ✔ **FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING** *(optional)* **Add An Additional $2.95** **(receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)** | $ 2.95 |
| **TOTAL** | $ |

Please Print Clearly

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover®/NOVUSSMCards

**Dept. 69233**

Card#

Exp. Date /

Name

Address

City ST Zip

Daytime Phone #

Email Address

Check or money order **payable** to: **Dream Products, Inc.**
**Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496**

Instead, the Army's drawdown management programs – which began two years ago – will use retention screenings focused on soldiers' grades and specialty affiliations, such as the Qualitative Service Program (QSP) for senior noncommissioned officers and Selective Early Retirement Boards for colonels and lieutenant colonels. The QSP retention screenings will theoretically winnow out over-strength occupational specialties with limited promotion opportunities. For the first time since the 1970s drawdowns, the Army is planning to use Officer Selection Separation Boards to administer reductions in force for captains and majors.

The Air Force is likewise using reduction-in-force boards to nudge RIF-vulnerable captains and majors toward voluntary separation, including those with as few as 15 years of service. RIF boards are just one of the Air Force's 18 force-management programs designed to thin the ranks to sequester-dictated levels. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Cody called the programs "a necessary step we must take as a force."

With the sequestration budget cuts pressuring military benefits, some career personnel are choosing to get out while the getting is good. Concerned about further cuts in their post-service support, these seasoned, often exemplary soldiers, sailors and airmen are leaving the armed forces to grandfather in their benefits.

In some ways, the current downsizing bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the problematic 1970s and 1990s military drawdowns – how not to do it, observers say. Not surprisingly, the "hollow force" term that describes an under-resourced military dates back to reactions to President Jimmy Carter's late-1970s drawdowns. "It's not a new term," Haynes says. "What happened in the late '70s is what's happening now."

The current drive to slash active-duty forces and depend on Guard and reserve units for major emergencies was tried in the '70s, when Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger told Congress that "we basically went too far in reducing our active-duty ground forces." The Clinton-era drawdown likewise showed that cutting experienced military personnel and accessions compromised the force's ability to operate effectively and efficiently.

"You need to define your end state," says Michael Woodgerd, an operations research analyst who embedded for 40 months with combat brigades and U.S. agencies in Afghanistan. "Otherwise, you're going to send a signal to your best people, who are going to bail." A West Point graduate and '80s- and '90s-era armor officer, Woodgerd sees parallels between the upheaval of the 1990s downsizing and today's drawdowns.

Echoing Woodgerd's assessment, a former Air Force E-5 recalled his experience during that era, saying, "I watched knowledge go out the door." Experienced E-5s and E-6s who didn't want to risk the ax took the voluntary separation incentive and left the military. In the RIF's aftermath, there was "a palpable void in the knowledge/skill area" that took years to fix. "The same uneasy feeling is going through the field now," says the former E-5, who runs a veterans site. He hears about a lot of soldiers deciding to leave due to family concerns. "A very intelligent person is not going to leave his family's welfare to chance," he says. "Patriotism is great, but it doesn't put food on the table."

The major is now approaching his moment of decision: stay in the service or go full-time with his own private company.

The negatives: "The Army has really botched this thing," he says about the reduction-in-force process, calling the drawdown "ham-fisted and arbitrary. The Army's not doing itself any favors. They are going to keep all the people they don't want and lose the ones they want to keep."

He says he sees a "real danger" for the volunteer Army if the military fails to properly administer the drawdown. "When we start kicking people out, and we don't do it properly, we're setting ourselves up for long-term failure," he says. "Any kid thinking about volunteering is going to pull out his smartphone and google 'reasons to enlist in the Army' or 'reasons to not enlist in the Army,' and there it is."

Like many soldiers who came of age in the post-9/11 years, the major worries about a garrison-mode Army that values regulation over creativity – an Army that's an anathema to soldiers who learned to make quick decisions in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The Army bureaucracy's going to snuff the life out of the soldiers who came in after 9/11," he says.

But then there's the other side: the military also represents stability for the major and his family. It's a tough decision. "I don't want to stay in the Army," he says, "but I may have to for my family."

*Douglas Wissing has written for* National Geographic Traveler, ForbesLife *and* Gray's Sporting Journal. *He is a frequent contributor to* The American Legion Magazine.

# GUARANTEED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

1-866-768-6517 • www.bradfordexchange.com/18595

# MY DEAR GRANDSON

## MAY GOD ALWAYS PROTECT YOU

Share a wonderful way for your grandson to carry the power of God's love forever with a stylish and sophisticated expression of faith. Introducing the *"Protection and Strength for My Grandson" Sapphire Pendant*—an exclusive jewelry design available only from The Bradford Exchange.

### Gleaming Stainless Steel and a Genuine Black Sapphire

Crafted of rugged, gleaming stainless steel as strong as your faith, the front of our shield dog tag pendant features a stylized diamond-shaped cross set with a genuine black sapphire at the center. The sides have a black finish which contributes to the contemporary design.

Adding to the meaning and value, the pendant is engraved on the reverse side with the sentiment: *"My Dear Grandson, May God always protect you and give you strength."* A matching 24" stainless steel chain completes the look.

### Exceptional Craftsmanship... A Remarkable Value

A remarkable value at $79*, this dog tag pendant is payable in 4 easy installments of just $19.75, and is backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch and gift box along with a Certificate of Authenticity. Send no money now; just mail the Reservation Application. This limited-time offer is only available from The Bradford Exchange. Order today!

**www.bradfordexchange.com/18595**

*Cross Set with a Genuine Black Sapphire*

*Crafted in Gleaming, Tough Stainless Steel*

Finely engraved on the reverse side

*Actual Size*

**Protection and Strength for My Grandson**
PENDANT

*A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange*

©2014 BGE 01-18595-001-BIC14T

**LIMITED-TIME OFFER**

*Reservations will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Respond as soon as possible to reserve your pendant.*

**RESERVATION APPLICATION** **SEND NO MONEY NOW**

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
JEWELRY

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the **"Protection and Strength for My Grandson" Sapphire Pendant** for me as described in this announcement, in the quantity checked below.

☐ 1 Pendant ☐ 2 Pendants ☐ 3 Pendants ☐ 4 Pendants

**ORDER PROMPTLY FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!**

*Plus $8.98 shipping and service. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature ______

Mrs. Mr. Ms. ______
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address ______

City ______ State ______ Zip ______

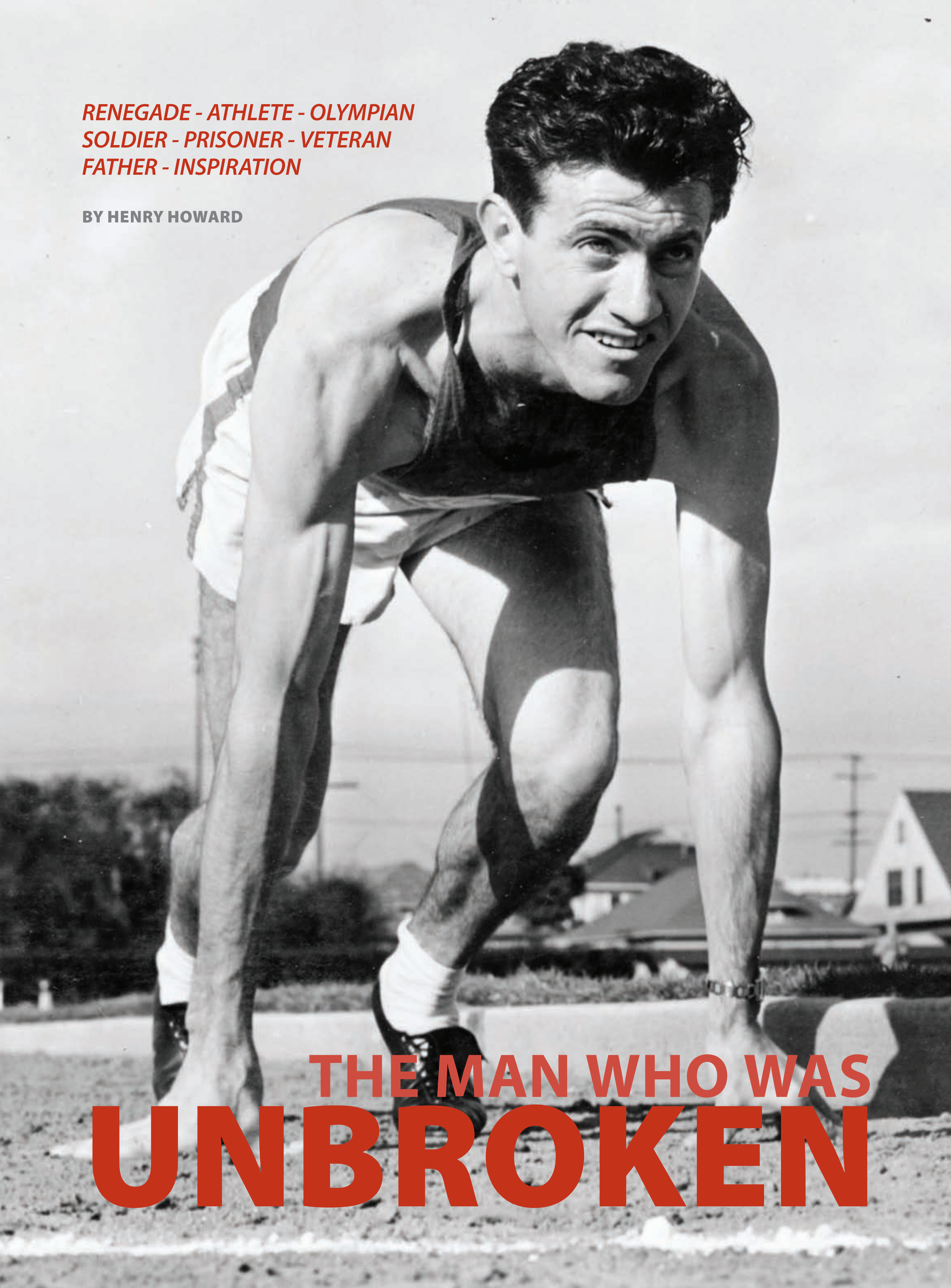
E-Mail (Optional) ______

**01-18595-001-E94901**

# THE MAN WHO WAS UNBROKEN

*RENEGADE - ATHLETE - OLYMPIAN*
*SOLDIER - PRISONER - VETERAN*
*FATHER - INSPIRATION*

**BY HENRY HOWARD**



Seven years ago, Louie Zamperini had just concluded a presentation on a cruise ship when a man in his 60s raised his hand and said, "Mr. Zamperini, I was in your camp in 1957. And several years later, I remember what you had taught me and told me. I came to my own decision to come to the Lord, and my life has been turned around."

Zamperini's son, Luke, pauses as he shares the cruise-ship anecdote about Victory Boys Camp, which his late father established for troubled inner-city youths in 1952. "Then another man gets up and says, 'Mr. Zamperini, I was in your camp in 1961.' ... We saw my father's redemption and resilience all the time."

For 60 years, the elder Zamperini shared his inspiring story with church groups, community organizations, and those he would meet and befriend instantly. There was even a Sunday school comic book about him: "The True Story of Capt. Louis Zamperini," adapted from the 1956 book "Devil at my Heels," co-authored by Zamperini and Helen Itris.

"Back in the 1950s, we couldn't go anywhere without him being approached by somebody who knew his story and wanted to talk to him," Luke remembers. "He was very popular back then. It got a little resurgence when CBS Sports featured him in the 1998 Nagano Olympics. That kind of re-established interest in him. And, of course, when Laura Hillenbrand discovered his story, that brought us to the state we're in today."

On Christmas Day, the story of Zamperini's life – troubled youth, high school track star, Olympic runner, prisoner of war – debuts in movie theaters across the United States. Directed by Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie, the film is based on Hillenbrand's best-selling book "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption."

For years, Zamperini fought to come to grips with his World War II experience. Surviving the crash of his bomber, the *Green Hornet*. Floating through shark-infested waters for 47 days. Nearly three years of torture at a Japanese prison camp.

With the end of the war and his release came a euphoria, followed by anger, depression, nightmares and alcoholism. For Zamperini, time did not not heal his wounds.

"He was still deeply troubled," says his daughter, Cynthia Garris. "They didn't know what (post-traumatic stress disorder) was; there wasn't a clinical name for it back then."

"I had a bit of a rough beginning," she continues. "While I was still an infant, he went through his conversion under Billy Graham. And I can attest to the fact that he didn't drink or have these nightmares as far back as I can remember."

Sparked by his initial meeting with Graham, Zamperini's transformation continued when he returned to Japan in the early '50s to speak to 850 prisoners held for war crimes. He forgave and hugged his captors, including those who had tortured him. Though Zamperini wanted to meet and forgive Mutsuhiro Watanabe – "The Bird" – in person, the notoriously abusive POW camp officer declined.

Seemingly overnight, Zamperini emerged from his darkness to shine a light wherever he went. Once he forgave his captors, he said, he never again had a nightmare.

**A NEW OUTLOOK** Reinvigorated and full of love, Zamperini turned his attention to raising his kids, teaching them life lessons and playing practical jokes. He was the parent who soothed the sore throats, mended the broken toys and tended to the pets – even rats.

"To me, the rats were wonderful," Luke says, laughing. "To him, they were disgusting. I mistakenly left their cage outside one night, and in the morning, they appeared to be dead. I was heartbroken. He nursed them back to health, staying up all night and feeding them honey and sugar water. The next morning, here was this exhausted father with these rats seemingly returned from the dead. No one asked him to do that. He just knew it would make me happy."

Zamperini would unleash his sense of humor anytime, anywhere. "One time, Mom, Luke and I were watching TV in the evening," Cynthia recalls. "Often Dad would go downstairs to his workshop, so we didn't think it was unusual. All of a sudden he came streaking through the TV room, and he was dressed like a sumo wrestler, with a Japanese cloth around his loins, running through the room, just to make us laugh. He had a wonderful sense of humor."

Zamperini would engage anyone; he was always happy to hear someone's story and, of course, to share his own.

"He would be out watering his plants in the front yard, and some jogger would be jogging by,"

***LEFT:** Louie Zamperini, who was an elite high school runner, competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and had hoped to run in the 1940 games in Japan.* Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

*Even after enduring nearly three years of torture and backbreaking labor at prison camps, Louie Zamperini returned to Japan to forgive his captors. His story inspired the best-selling book and upcoming film "Unbroken."* Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

Luke says. "He would turn around and say, 'Hey, I'll race you to that mailbox up there.' Of course, he was pretty slow in his later years. So when the other person would reach the mailbox first, he would say, 'Well, now you can say that you beat an Olympian.' That would usually make them stop, turn around and come back to talk. It's just the way he would make friends."

Zamperini stayed active, though he had to give up jogging at 87 and skiing at 91 when he cracked his clavicle.

"I'd look up and he'd be gone," Cynthia says of their skiing trips, one of which was a perfect example of Zamperini's outgoing nature. "Some pretty girl had fallen on the other side of the slope, and he had made a beeline over there to give her lessons on how to ski. And this is when he was in his late 80s or 90s. He just made friends wherever he went."

**"ALWAYS LAUGHING"** While researching for her 2001 book "Seabiscuit: An American Legend," Hillenbrand learned of Zamperini's high school athletic exploits – how he'd set a world interscholastic record by running a 4:21 mile. Once she learned about his war experience, she says she "knew this was my next book."

She began meeting with him. "He was always laughing, always happy, always upbeat," says Hillenbrand, who spoke with Zamperini almost daily during the seven-year process of researching and writing "Unbroken."

"He loved being alive. He told these stories of the most harrowing experiences and did so in an almost singsong voice because he had let it all go ... the pain of it was gone for him. That was inspiring. I had never met anyone who had suffered as Louie had who could maintain an outlook ... that everything is a gift. He was a wonderfully happy man."

His sense of humor surfaced when Hillenbrand least expected it. "I called him one day and told him how far deep his plane was in the ocean," she says. "And he responded very quickly, 'Well, I should go down and get it.' I just loved that. We're talking about a plane crash that put him in these dire circumstances for years. But he could joke about it."

Zamperini's story is full of tragic moments, such as his captivity on the island of Kwajalein, where he contracted dengue fever and was the subject of medical experiments. "His voice became solemn when he spoke about that," Hillenbrand says. "He would make little noises one makes when there is something hard to say. He was struggling to push through it."

While Zamperini was able to talk about the abuses he suffered, one episode proved especially challenging to recount. "The thing he said was the most painful memory of all the war was the killing of Gaga the Duck," Hillenbrand says. "It was sort of a pet of the prisoners of war. He said it was the worst thing – the innocence of that animal and what was done to him."

Advertisement

# Back Again for the First Time

*Our modern take on a 1929 classic, yours for the unbelievably nostalgic price of ONLY $29!*

You have a secret hidden up your sleeve. Strapped to your wrist is a miniature masterpiece, composed of hundreds of tiny moving parts that measure the steady heartbeat of the universe. You love this watch. And you still smile every time you check it, because you remember that you almost didn't buy it. You almost turned the page without a second thought, figuring that the ***Stauer Metropolitan Watch* for only $29** was just too good to be true. But now you know how right it feels to be wrong.

**Our lowest price EVER for a classic men's dress watch.** How can we offer the ***Metropolitan*** for less than $30? The answer is simple. Stauer has sold over one million watches in the last decade and many of our clients buy more than one. Our goal isn't to sell you a single watch, our goal is to help you fall in love with Stauer's entire line of vintage-inspired luxury timepieces and jewelry. And every great relationship has to start somewhere...

**Tells today's time with yesterday's style.** The Metropolitan is exactly the kind of elegant, must-have accessory that belongs in every gentleman's collection next to his British cufflinks and Italian neckties. Inspired by a rare 1929 Swiss classic found at auction, the ***Metropolitan Watch*** revives a distinctive and debonair retro design for 21st-century men of exceptional taste.

The ***Stauer Metropolitan*** retains all the hallmarks of a well-bred wristwatch including a gold-finished case, antique ivory guilloche face, blued Breguet-style hands, an easy-to-read date window at the 3 o'clock position, and a crown of sapphire blue. It secures with a crocodile-patterned, genuine black leather strap and is water resistant to 3 ATM.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** We are so sure that you will be stunned by the magnificent ***Stauer Metropolitan Watch*** that we offer a 60-day money back guarantee. If you're not impressed after wearing it for a few weeks, return it for a full refund of the purchase price. But once the first compliments roll in, we're sure that you'll see the value of time well spent!

**Stauer Metropolitan Timepiece— ~~$199~~**

Offer Code Price **$29** + S&P ***Save $170***

*You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.*

**1-888-870-9149**

**Your Offer Code: MTW275-02**
Please use this code when you order to receive your discount.

Stauer®
14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. MTW275-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
**www.stauer.com**

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
BBB
**Rating of A+**

*Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™*

Luxurious gold-finished case with sapphire-colored crown - Crocodile-embossed leather strap - Band fits wrists 6 ¼"–8 ¾" - Water-resistant to 3 ATM

*Jack O'Connell, center, plays Louie Zamperini and Japanese pop star Miyavi plays Mutsuhiro "The Bird" Watanabe, the sadistic Japanese Army sergeant, in "Unbroken," directed by Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie.* Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

**"FULL OF LOVE"** Jack O'Connell, who plays Zamperini in the movie, met him several times before and after filming. O'Connell was most impressed with Zamperini's decision to forgive those who had done him great harm. "The solace you gain from forgiveness eventually helps take you to a better place," he says.

That's what enabled Zamperini to emerge from the darkness of his postwar years and embrace life. "You would never know the torment he went through," Cynthia says. "Many men have gone through wars like that. They are bitter and not very talkative. They can be angry. He was such a happy-go-lucky man. Just full of love, full of life."

When making public appearances or going out to eat, Zamperini always wore his "uniform" – beige pants with the belt he wore all the way through the war, blue Olympic windbreaker and University of Southern California cap. He had a half-dozen USC caps and was rarely photographed in his last years without one. "I have one sitting on an easy chair where he liked to sit," his daughter says. "It looks like Dad's here."

Zamperini died July 2 at 97.

Initially, Luke was disappointed that his father didn't live long enough to see the completed film of "Unbroken." But Jolie told him, "Oh, yes he did. I took my laptop to the hospital, sat on his bed with him, and we watched it."

Thanks to the "Unbroken" book and film, Zamperini's legacy will endure, educating millions more on his story of courage, redemption, struggle, forgiveness and faith.

The Victory Boys Club lives on, too. The family had planned to disband the camp since it's not at a set location anymore. But earlier this year, Zamperini reached out and shared his story one last time to a troubled 20-year-old man addicted to heroin.

"We took him to see Louie, and Louie was able to finance this guy getting to a mission group in Australia that would accept him in his state and try to help him," Luke says. "It turned this guy around. He spoke at both the private and public memorials we had for my dad. We realized we were able to help this one guy with Victory Boys Camp, so we wanted to keep this charity going to benefit the lives of young people."

*Henry Howard is deputy director of magazine operations for The American Legion.*

GOVERNMENT ISSUED

GOLD COINS

ONLY $130ea

EXCLUSIVE AT-COST OFFER

**Nationwide Coin and Bullion Reserve** announces the final release of 2,500 congressionally authorized, fully backed by the U.S. Government, completely free of dealer mark up, $5 Gold American Eagles at the incredible price of only **$130.00 each.**

AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDERS OVER $25,000

Special Offer

ONLY $130ea

FINAL RELEASE

If you had $25,000 in gold in 2001 at $290 per ounce you would have over $100,000 at today's gold prices. Numerous experts are now predicting gold at $5,000 an ounce. Your $25,000 could be worth $125,000 in the near future. This at cost offer for American citizens may be your final opportunity to own government gold free of dealer mark up. Due to extremely limited supplies we must adhere to a strict limit of ten coins per household per lifetime.

**Nationwide Coin and Bullion Reserve** has set these beautiful U.S. Government gold coins for immediate public release and cannot guarantee sufficient inventory to supply current demand. This at cost public offer will sell out immediately. Overage orders may be cancelled and your checks returned uncashed. Ordering now may be your last chance to own these magnificent government issued gold coins at this level. **Order now to avoid disappointment.**

*Call now to order!*

NATIONWIDE
COIN & BULLION RESERVE

24 HOURS A DAY • 7 DAYS A WEEK
1.877.817.1220

MINIMUM ORDER 5 COINS

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS CHECK

KEY CODE: ALM-141115

Prices subject to change due to fluctuations in gold market. Prices will remain at dealer cost.

Coins enlarged to show detail.

Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

# What Louie Zamperini meant to Angelina Jolie

Long before they collaborated on "Unbroken," which opens nationwide on Christmas Day, Louie Zamperini and Angelina Jolie were neighbors in the Hollywood Hills. When Hollywood decided to make a movie about Zamperini's life, the star actress was chosen to direct.

"There is a saying: 'Never meet your heroes,'" Jolie says. "I got the chance to meet mine, and he was an even greater man than I could have hoped for. Meeting him and knowing him changed my life."

*The American Legion Magazine* interviewed Jolie via email about the experience.

**How did you get involved with the project?**
I read a brief description and was interested in the themes of the strength of the human spirit, resilience and faith. I read Laura Hillenbrand's book and became desperate to tell the story, walk in his footsteps and take this journey. It wasn't as a filmmaker but as a human being that I asked to do this film.

**During an interview on NBC's "Today," you said that Zamperini has been a help to you. How?**
He was a living reminder of what a person could be. He wasn't perfect or born into a charmed life. He made mistakes. He did the wrong thing many times, especially as a youth. But when it came down to it, he rose up. He fought hard. He worked on improving himself and on giving to others. And through it all, he remained full of that fun and fire that made him the man we all came to love and admire.

Sitting with him in his living room, talking about life, made me a better person. He was always happy to take the time to give guidance. He had such clarity. So much wisdom. And with that was a man with the greatest sense of humor. I was always laughing. I would wake up feeling sad and ask if I could come up for breakfast. By the time I left, I was smiling. Always.

**His story is one of survival, resilience and redemption. Did you see those traits as you worked with him?**
Even in his hospital bed, he was taking care of others, making jokes to help us all not to feel sad.

**You showed him the nearly-finished movie while he was hospitalized. What was his reaction?**
It was a deeply moving experience. I felt very privileged to witness this man I admire and love so much watch his own life play out on screen. It was especially moving as he was watching scenes with his family and the friends who he survived the war with. As a man of faith, it seemed he was internally preparing himself to pass away and be reunited with them. He was very peaceful. He smiled when he saw his mother making gnocchi. He jumped a bit when the flak exploded and hit the planes. At one point, he said "Phil" (pilot and fellow POW Russell Allen "Phil" Phillips) under his breath. It made me realize how difficult the last few years must have been, when all his closest friends were gone.

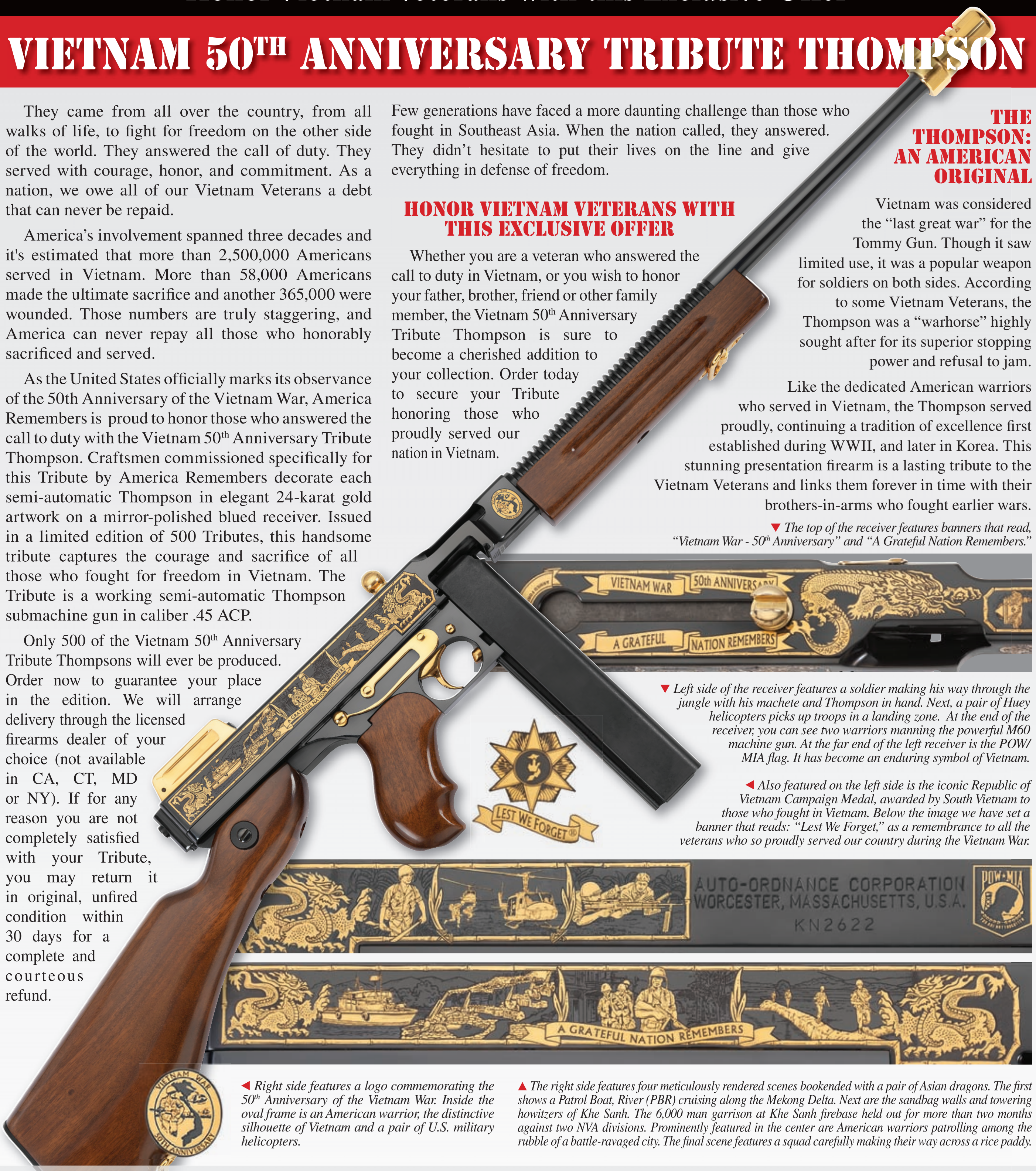
**The book and upcoming movie have generated a lot of buzz among veterans and nonveterans alike. Why?**
Most people are interested in history, especially when a particular time in history shapes our world, as was the case for World War II. But above all, I believe people are drawn to Louie's story because it is inspirational. Louie always reminded me that the purpose of the film is not to show how extraordinary he was but to help those watching it discover that they have the same strength inside them.

**What was your last conversation with Zamperini?**
My last moments with him were two days before he passed away. We held hands and looked into each other's eyes. The last thing I said was, "I love you." I miss him.

*– Henry Howard*

Honor Vietnam Veterans with this Exclusive Offer

# VIETNAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE THOMPSON



They came from all over the country, from all walks of life, to fight for freedom on the other side of the world. They answered the call of duty. They served with courage, honor, and commitment. As a nation, we owe all of our Vietnam Veterans a debt that can never be repaid.

America's involvement spanned three decades and it's estimated that more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam. More than 58,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice and another 365,000 were wounded. Those numbers are truly staggering, and America can never repay all those who honorably sacrificed and served.

As the United States officially marks its observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, America Remembers is proud to honor those who answered the call to duty with the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Thompson. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this Tribute by America Remembers decorate each semi-automatic Thompson in elegant 24-karat gold artwork on a mirror-polished blued receiver. Issued in a limited edition of 500 Tributes, this handsome tribute captures the courage and sacrifice of all those who fought for freedom in Vietnam. The Tribute is a working semi-automatic Thompson submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP.

Only 500 of the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Thompsons will ever be produced. Order now to guarantee your place in the edition. We will arrange delivery through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice (not available in CA, CT, MD or NY). If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your Tribute, you may return it in original, unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.

Few generations have faced a more daunting challenge than those who fought in Southeast Asia. When the nation called, they answered. They didn't hesitate to put their lives on the line and give everything in defense of freedom.

## HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS WITH THIS EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Whether you are a veteran who answered the call to duty in Vietnam, or you wish to honor your father, brother, friend or other family member, the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Thompson is sure to become a cherished addition to your collection. Order today to secure your Tribute honoring those who proudly served our nation in Vietnam.

## THE THOMPSON: AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

Vietnam was considered the "last great war" for the Tommy Gun. Though it saw limited use, it was a popular weapon for soldiers on both sides. According to some Vietnam Veterans, the Thompson was a "warhorse" highly sought after for its superior stopping power and refusal to jam.

Like the dedicated American warriors who served in Vietnam, the Thompson served proudly, continuing a tradition of excellence first established during WWII, and later in Korea. This stunning presentation firearm is a lasting tribute to the Vietnam Veterans and links them forever in time with their brothers-in-arms who fought earlier wars.

▼ *The top of the receiver features banners that read, "Vietnam War - 50th Anniversary" and "A Grateful Nation Remembers."*

▼ *Left side of the receiver features a soldier making his way through the jungle with his machete and Thompson in hand. Next, a pair of Huey helicopters picks up troops in a landing zone. At the end of the receiver, you can see two warriors manning the powerful M60 machine gun. At the far end of the left receiver is the POW/MIA flag. It has become an enduring symbol of Vietnam.*

◀ *Also featured on the left side is the iconic Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, awarded by South Vietnam to those who fought in Vietnam. Below the image we have set a banner that reads: "Lest We Forget," as a remembrance to all the veterans who so proudly served our country during the Vietnam War.*

◀ *Right side features a logo commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Inside the oval frame is an American warrior, the distinctive silhouette of Vietnam and a pair of U.S. military helicopters.*

▲ *The right side features four meticulously rendered scenes bookended with a pair of Asian dragons. The first shows a Patrol Boat, River (PBR) cruising along the Mekong Delta. Next are the sandbag walls and towering howitzers of Khe Sanh. The 6,000 man garrison at Khe Sanh firebase held out for more than two months against two NVA divisions. Prominently featured in the center are American warriors patrolling among the rubble of a battle-ravaged city. The final scene features a squad carefully making their way across a rice paddy.*

**MODEL:** THOMPSON AUTO-ORDNANCE 1927 A-1 **BARREL LENGTH:** 16 ½" **CALIBER:** .45 ACP

©AHL, Inc.

I wish to reserve ___ of the **"Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Thompson"**, a working Thompson, at the current issue price of $2,995.* My deposit of $195 per Tribute is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at the rate of $100 per month, no interest or carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty day return privilege.

**All orders are subject to acceptance and credit verification prior to shipment. Shipping and handling will be added to each order. Virginia residents please add sales tax.*

☐ Check enclosed for $________________.
☐ Charge payment of $________________ to:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover
No.________________________________ Exp. __________

Name________________________________
Address________________________________
City/State/Zip________________________________
Daytime Telephone No. (_______)________________

**America Remembers®**
10226 Timber Ridge Drive ★ Ashland, Virginia 23005
**www.americaremembers.com**
To place your reservation call toll-free **1-800-682-2291**

*John Renstrom wants to keep the Black Hills VA Medical Center in Hot Springs, S.D., open.* Photo by Lucas Carter

John Renstrom used to get all his medical care at a VA hospital near his home in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota. Now he drives 120 miles round-trip for everything from PTSD treatment to a 15-minute medication checkup. And soon, he and thousands of other veterans will have to travel even farther for medical care if VA closes the Hot Springs, S.D., medical center that has served three states and two of the nation's most impoverished Indian reservations for more than a century.

"Hot Springs VA was the best preventive care a man could receive," says Renstrom, a Vietnam War veteran. "Now they are going to take that away from me."

"What are we going to do with young men coming home from the wars now?" adds Richard Galeano, another Vietnam veteran and a former Hot Springs VA employee.

Cutting services in Hot Springs runs contrary to efforts to expand veterans' care in response to the scandals at VA hospitals in Phoenix and other cities where former servicemembers wait months to have urgent medical needs addressed. "The veterans we serve will be put into longer waiting lines at the VA medical center where they will be referred," says Patrick Russell, an Army veteran and medical technologist at the Hot Springs VA.

There are also concerns that VA manipulated patient data, overstated maintenance costs and mismanaged medical staff to make closure of the Hot Springs medical center inevitable, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said in a letter submitted to the U.S. House Veterans' Affairs Committee during an August hearing in Hot Springs.

Given these discrepancies and the resignations of the two most prominent supporters of closing Hot Springs – VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Health Undersecretary Robert Petzel – VA should drop its Hot Springs "reconfiguration" plan, Thune added. "I believe VA should rescind its proposal and focus all of its energies on addressing the recent scandals and the pressing issue of veteran wait times."

**EXTRAORDINARY CARE** Hot Springs VA is the town's largest employer and an important source of jobs for veterans. It started as a sanitarium in 1907. A

# MYSTERY in HOT SPRINGS

*Veterans are baffled – and furious – as VA prepares to abandon a medical center that serves three states.*

**BY KEN OLSEN**

hospital was added in 1926, and the sanitarium eventually became a domiciliary renowned for PTSD and substance-abuse treatment. Some 87 percent of Hot Springs domiciliary patients remain clean and sober after completing the program here. Hot Springs is also widely praised by veterans for its medical care.

The campus included a 250-bed hospital when Renstrom started working there in 1989. It was one-stop shopping for veterans from western South Dakota, northern Nebraska, eastern Wyoming, and the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations.

"Veterans could see their doctors, get their X-rays and get their prescriptions filled," he says. "Everybody went the extra mile to make sure people didn't have to come back."

Hot Springs VA has a reputation for being especially welcoming to Native American veterans and became home to the first sweat lodge built at a VA hospital.

"It is one place I can come and feel like I'm treated the same as my non-Indian counterparts," says Bryan Brewer, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, headquartered on nearby Pine Ridge.

**REVERSAL OF FORTUNE** Hot Springs' fortunes changed in 1995 when Petzel became director of the VA region that includes western South Dakota. The Fort Meade VA hospital in Sturgis and the Hot Springs medical center merged into a single administrative unit called the Black Hills Health Care System. VA cut maintenance funds for the Hot Springs campus and transferred several medical services to Fort Meade. Hot Springs lost its intensive care unit, emergency room, all surgeries, cardiac rehabilitation and preventive services such as colonoscopies. The sleep lab and pacemaker clinics are gone. The hospital no longer even has the ability to ventilate patients with acute breathing problems, Russell says.

As consequences of these cutbacks accumulated, Petzel was promoted to VA undersecretary for health in 2010, but resigned last May after a litany of patient-care scandals came to light.

Meanwhile, VA has been slow to fill Hot Springs job vacancies and forced some medical staff to practice at both Fort Meade and Hot Springs, effectively adding a 200-mile round-trip commute to their job descriptions, says Ed Thompson,

*John Renstrom walks through a darkened part of the Hot Springs VA campus. The former ward is now used as clinic space and is deserted on weekends. VA argues that fewer veterans will use the Hot Springs medical center in the next two decades, despite its own projections showing almost no change in the service area's veterans population.* Photo by Lucas Carter

District 2 commander for the South Dakota American Legion. Moreover, VA has passed over qualified job candidates in favor of medical staff deemed less likely to stay in Hot Springs, according to Thune.

It's been excruciating for veterans and Hot Springs VA staff alike. "This systematic dismantling has caused undue hardship on the veterans and lowered the morale of employees who have been bearing the brunt of a greater workload," says Russell, who is also president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1539.

Veterans and hospital employees started questioning whether VA secretly planned to close Hot Springs more than three years ago. After months of stonewalling, VA announced in December 2011 that it planned to "realign" the mission of the Hot Springs medical center and domiciliary – widely believed to be a euphemism for closing the campus. When asked to defend the proposal, "VA was unable to produce a cost-benefit analysis to justify the reconfiguration, leaving doubt as to how VA decided on its plan and raising suspicion that the change was directed by a political agenda," Thune said.

The region was devastated.

"Some veterans cried when they announced the closure," says author Mary Ellen Goulet, who compiled a book of essays by area veterans called "Reveille in Hot Springs" that makes the case for keeping the medical center.

**CLOUDY FUTURE** Can the Hot Springs VA – and the town it supports – be saved?

Closing the medical center runs counter to the 2004 Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission recommendation that VA continue to operate a hospital, domiciliary and outpatient services here. It is also mystifying given that South Dakota is constructing a $41 million, 100-bed state veterans home in Hot Springs that relies on the local VA hospital to care for its residents. In fact, VA contributed $25.4 million to the project, which replaces a veterans home that dates to the 1880s.

But VA says the Hot Springs medical center loses money and that the domiciliary requires expensive renovations to make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Maintenance costs on the old buildings are high, and it's difficult to recruit medical staff to a small town in rural South Dakota. Veterans believe the latter problem is a consequence of VA failing to fill vacancies. "I've had nine different primary care doctors since 2009 and all of them said they would have stayed if they were offered permanent jobs," Renstrom says.

Steven DiStasio, director of the Fort Meade and Hot Springs hospitals, is clear about his preferences: he wants to move. "I need a new building," DiStasio says. "I would like to have it in Rapid City."

# "My little girl yesterday, my friend today, my daughter forever"

## DIAMOND PENDANT

### *The perfect way to say "I love you!"*

You have loved and cared for her since the day she was born. Now, give your daughter something that will let her know she's always in your heart! She will be inspired by this breathtaking pendant engraved with the tender words: "My little girl yesterday, my friend today, my daughter forever. I LOVE YOU."

### *Exquisitely designed.*

This stunning 14kt gold-plated pendant is expertly hand-set with ten sparkling diamonds. Hanging gently from an 18-inch chain, this pendant beautifully puts into words all that she means to you. Without a doubt, this is one gift she will treasure forever!

*Beautifully Presented*

*Your pendant arrives in a satin-lined presentation box at no extra charge.*

*Pendant shown actual size.*

### *The perfect gift – order today!*

The *My Daughter "I Love You" Diamond Pendant* can be yours to give for $99 plus $7.50 shipping and service, payable in three monthly installments of $35.50. Your satisfaction is guaranteed. If you are not delighted, simply return it within 90 days for a full refund. Don't delay – order this wonderful gift for your daughter today!

My little girl yesterday, my friend today, my daughter forever
I
LOVE
YOU

*The back is beautifully engraved with a loving sentiment.*

the Danbury Mint

©MBI

RESERVATION APPLICATION

The Danbury Mint
47 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06857

YES! Reserve the *My Daughter "I Love You" Diamond Pendant* as described in this announcement.

Signature________________________________________

Orders subject to acceptance.

Name________________________________________

Please print clearly.

Address______________________________________

City/State/Zip_________________________________

**For guaranteed Christmas delivery: 1-800-741-8718 • www.danburymint.com**

29650017E030

Photo by Lucas Carter

DiStasio acknowledges that such a move will devastate the Hot Springs economy. Some of that could be offset if a private company repurposed the property, he says. When pressed to offer an example, he suggests that the Hot Springs VA is well suited to become a rental storage facility. “This building is never going to blow down, fall down, never going to get flooded,” he says of the regal sandstone block building that is on the National Historic Register.

“What are they going to store in that? Fly ash from North Dakota?” Renstrom replies.

More to the point, who will be left to store anything in a former medical center if VA pulls out of Hot Springs, population 3,800, and takes 370 federal jobs with it?

**MATH PROBLEMS** VA also argues that a declining number of patients will use the Hot Springs medical center over the next 20 years. But the agency’s own projections show almost no change in the veteran population in the Hot Springs service area. The evidence suggests that VA is driving patients away by cutting staff and eliminating medical services, Thune says.

VA is also excluding veterans from the nearby reservations when it calculates future demand for Hot Springs’ services, says Thompson, a member of the Oglala tribe. There are nearly 3,600 veterans at Pine Ridge alone, many of whom may not be aware they are eligible for VA care, and another 2,000 at the Cheyenne River and Rosebud reservations. VA dismisses those numbers, saying they can’t be verified.

The agency eventually produced a cost-benefit analysis of Hot Springs that has also been questioned. VA says it would have to spend $1.5 million to acquire land if it were to build a new domiciliary here, despite the fact that it owns ample acreage in Hot Springs, Thune says. VA also estimates it will have to spend $1.9 million to repair a maintenance building that essentially serves as a garage. And the agency lists $112,000 in expenses for a laundry building even though the agency closed the Hot Springs laundry services years ago, Thune says.

The agency’s budget also calls for spending $10 million a year to lease domiciliary space in Rapid City – an expense easily avoided if the facility stays in Hot Springs, says Navy veteran Bob Nelson Sr., who worked at the Hot Springs VA for nearly four decades.

VA did not respond to questions about these discrepancies.

## HOT SPRINGS VA TIMELINE

**1889** A state veterans home is constructed in Hot Springs, S.D.

**1902** President Theodore Roosevelt signs legislation authorizing the Battle Mountain Sanitarium in Hot Springs, which later becomes a VA domiciliary renowned for its PTSD and substance abuse treatment programs.

**1907** The sanitarium welcomes Civil War veterans as its first patients.

**1926** A veterans hospital is added to what will become the Hot Springs VA Medical Center campus.

**1996** VA combines the Hot Springs VA and the Fort Meade VA in Sturgis, S.D., into one administrative unit named the Black Hills Health Care System. Maintenance budget cuts begin at Hot Springs. The transfer of medical services from Hot Springs to Fort Meade begins.

**LATE SUMMER 2011** Veterans and current and former Hot Springs VA employees begin questioning VA about rumored plans to close Hot Springs.

**DEC. 11, 2011** VA announces plans to “realign” its Hot Springs medical center campus, widely believed to be a euphemism for closing it.

**OCT. 13, 2013** South Dakota breaks ground on a $41 million project to replace older buildings at the state veterans home in Hot Springs. VA provides $25.4 million for the new facilities.

**AUG. 14, 2014** Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., sends a letter to the U.S. House Veterans’ Affairs Committee with questions about whether VA manipulated data and cut programs to force the closure of Hot Springs. He also calls on VA to abandon its plans to shutter Hot Springs.

# “TV Ears saved our marriage!”

- Darlene and Jack B., CA

**The Voice Clarifying TV Ears Headset** is specifically designed for clear, distinct, TV listening, without turning up the volume. With TV Ears wireless technology, you set your own headset volume and tone, while other TV listeners hear the television at a volume level that’s comfortable for them. You can even listen through the headset only and put the TV on mute if the situation calls for a quiet environment… maybe the baby is sleeping in the next room. Or perhaps you are the only one who is interested in listening to the ballgame.

**The New and Improved 5.0 System**, with our proprietary Voice Clarifying Circuitry®, makes words easier to discern so television dialog is understandable and background noise is reduced. With 125 Decibels of unparalleled volume, even the most demanding customer will hear television dialog clearly. Now with more power, angled foam ear-tips, a Snap-Fit headset charging mechanism, improved tone adjustment, stronger bow arms, and improved styling, the TV Ears 5.0 is our best system ever, and in turn, TV Ears has earned the trust of audiologists and doctors nationwide.

**TV Ears is Easy to Use!** The transmitter attaches to the audio ports on your television and sends a signal to the wireless headset. The transmitter also charges the headset while it’s not in use. There is no complicated technology to understand and no expensive batteries to replace…just sit down and enjoy the show!

**TV Listening System Delivers Clearest Dialog.** “My wife and I have used TV Ears almost daily for the past ten years and find them an invaluable help in our enjoyment of television—we would not be without them. As a retired otologist, I heartily recommend TV Ears to people with normal hearing as well as those with hearing loss.”
- Robert Forbes, M.D., California

Transmitter/Charger

((( WIRELESS )))

## Voice Clarifying TV Ears Headset

- Over 2 Million Satisfied Users
- Volume up to 125 decibels
- 5 Year Limited Warranty
- TV dialog is clear and understandable

## New and Improved

## Hear television dialog clearly without disturbing others with loud TV volume!

*“Now my husband can have the volume as loud as he needs and I can have the TV at my hearing level. “TV Ears” are so comfortable that Jack forgets he has them on! He can once again hear and understand the dialog.”*
*- Darlene & Jack B., CA*

**Risk Free Trial.** TV Ears 5.0 Analog comes with a 30-day risk free trial. If you’re not completely satisfied, return it for a full refund of the purchase price.

TV Ears 5.0............~~$129.95~~
Special Offer.......Save $50
**Now $79.95** + s&h

For fastest service, call toll-free between 6am and 6pm PST Monday through Friday.

**1-800-379-7832**

or visit

**www.tvears.com**

Please mention **Promotion Code 35379**

TV·EARS®

TV Ears is a trademark of TV Ears, Inc. © 2014 TV Ears, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Talk about life-changing
Amazingly clear phone conversations available.
Call: 888-514-7933
Visit: HamiltonCapTel.com/TVE914

**CONTRACTED CARE** VA portrays the closure of Hot Springs as an opportunity for veterans to receive care close to home even though the closest VA hospital will be Fort Meade, another 100 miles north. Instead of forcing veterans to drive even farther for care, VA will pay for veterans to see private providers or, in the case of tribal members, the Indian Health Service, DiStasio says.

VA has little to back up that plan. More than two years after it announced its plan to close Hot Springs, Fall River Health Services – the only other hospital in town – told The American Legion's System Worth Saving Task Force that it never received a formal proposal from VA. DiStasio confirmed that during a national commander's visit to Hot Springs in May, saying it was premature to negotiate specifics.

A future deal between VA and Fall River may not do much to alleviate waiting times for veterans. Renstrom attempted to line up a private physician after learning he had heart problems. He was told it would take a minimum of 60 days for him to get an initial appointment, and 90 days before he could see a cardiologist.

"What the hell good does it do to tell me to go see a private-sector doctor when there aren't any around here?" he asks.

Native American veterans adamantly oppose VA's proposal to contract with the Indian Health Service for their care, Thompson and other tribal representatives say. Tribal veterans don't always trust Indian Health Service hospitals, which are poorly funded, often understaffed and poorly supplied with sufficient medications.

There are also concerns about VA's track record for reimbursing non-agency hospitals and clinics for contract care. That includes "long-standing compensation issues between VA and Indian Health Service," Thune noted.

In fact, VA's fee-for-service proposal could jeopardize health care throughout the region. Because VA reimbursement rates are so low, "rural hospitals run the risk of losing money on every veteran they treat," Nelson says. "Add to that the slowness of the VA to pay their bills, and these hospitals are placed at greater financial risk."

Veterans here also prefer VA care. "These local hospitals don't know what the veterans' issues are," says Virgil Hagel of Gordon, Neb., a Korean War veteran and past department commander for the Nebraska American Legion who uses the Hot Springs VA. "Veterans were promised health care. We shouldn't have to be up there fighting for it."

"What the hell good does it do to tell me to go see a private-sector doctor when there aren't any around here?"

*John Renstrom, Vietnam War veteran*

Photo by Lucas Carter

**SAVE THE VA** A citizens group called Save the VA formed soon after VA announced its plans to close the Hot Springs facilities, and drafted several proposals for keeping the campus viable. They include creating a national PTSD treatment center and a work-therapy program that would operate in conjunction with private businesses. VA abruptly stopped negotiating with the group in September 2012 and moved forward with plans to close Hot Springs.

The Legion's System Worth Saving Task Force has recommended that VA upgrade the Hot Springs medical center and keep as much care there as possible, especially considering the needs of residents of the local veterans home. And if new buildings are required, VA should consider putting them in Hot Springs instead of another community such as Rapid City.

Anything less will devastate the region, Renstrom and other veterans say.

"I'm 65," he says. "I own a home here. If they pull out, I've got nothing. Me and thousands of other veterans."

*Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor for* The American Legion Magazine.

## FOLLOW THE HOT SPRINGS VA "REALIGNMENT"

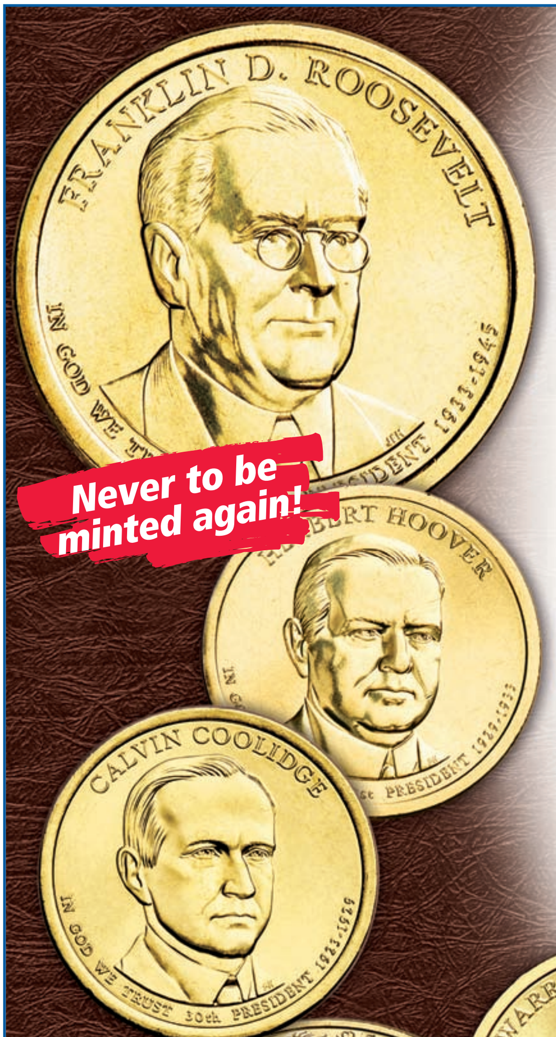
Learn more about the Hot Springs community and efforts to save its VA facilities: ***www.theveteranstown.com***

Visit the Hot Springs VA website: ***www.blackhills.va.gov***

# COLLECTORS SET

# 8 *for* $8

## *at Face Value!*



**Get a Complete 8-Coin Set of 2014 Presidential Dollars at *face value of $8!*** You'll receive Uncirculated Philadelphia "P" and Denver "D" issues of all four 2014 dollar designs – honoring Presidents Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt! These 2014 coins were struck for 3 months each and will never be minted again. Get the 8-coin year set at **FACE VALUE *– limit one set!***

### SAVE 65% *plus* receive a FREE GIFT

Order your Complete Uncirculated 8-Coin Set today at face value of ***ONLY $8*** and **SAVE 65%** off the regular price of ~~$22.95~~. Plus, respond by deadline and get a **FREE** Uncirculated 2014 Everglades National Park quarter honoring Florida's delicately balanced wetlands, which are home to a number of rare and endangered species.

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. ***Order your complete 8-coin set and SAVE!***

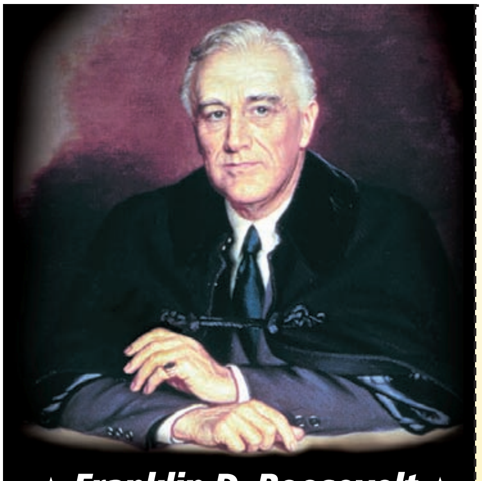
*Get a **FREE** Uncirculated 2014 Everglades Quarter*
*when you respond by deadline*

***Mail coupon today or order online at:***
***www.LittletonCoin.com/specials***

45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

©2014 LCC, LLC

*Year of issue & "P" or "D" mint marks are inscribed on the edge.*



**★ *Franklin D. Roosevelt* ★**

*The only four-term president, FDR led America through the Great Depression and WWII.*

### *Special Offer for New Customers Only*

☑ **YES!** Please send me a Complete Uncirculated 8-Coin Set of 2014 P&D Presidential Dollars at FACE VALUE OF ONLY $8.00 – regularly ~~$22.95~~, plus Free Shipping (limit one set). Also send my **FREE** Uncirculated 2014 Everglades National Park Quarter (one per customer, please).

**SAVE!** *Add Custom 2007-Date Presidential Dollars Display Folders for $2.95 – regularly ~~$3.49~~ – and **SAVE!***

*Made in USA*

| QTY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8-Coin Collectors Set *(limit 1 set)* | $8.00 | $8.00 |
|  | *Display Folders – **SAVE 15%*** | $2.95 |  |
| ***FREE Shipping!*** |  | Merchandise **TOTAL** | $ |

**Order Deadline: 12:00 Midnight, December 31, 2014**

Name ______________________________
Please print your complete name and address clearly

Address ______________________________ Apt# ________

City ______________________ State ___ Zip ________

E-Mail ______________________________

☐ Check or Money Order payable to Littleton Coin Company

**Charge my:** ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover Network

Card No. Exp. Date_____/_____

Please send coupon to:
**Littleton Coin Co.®, Dept. 3PJ402**
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd, Littleton NH 03561-3737

**America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945**

U.S. Army photo

# 'VALOR WAS EVERYWHERE'

## *Ryan Pitts distinguished himself on the battlefield and in the heart of a young boy fighting for his life.*

**BY MARK SEAVEY**

Staff Sgt. Ryan M. Pitts of Nashua, N.H., strode onto the Hall of Heroes stage at the Pentagon one day after receiving the Medal of Honor last July. His biggest little fan, 9-year-old Evan Pertile of Columbia, S.C., had a prime seat next to his mom, Rachel, and their friend, Leta Carruth, in the third row.

Evan was especially excited about his trip to and from the Hall of Heroes. "We got a police escort from the hotel to the Pentagon, and then they took us back from the Pentagon!" he declared.

That Evan could be there at all delighted Pitts.

At 5, the boy was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor that is now in remission. While he was ill, Evan received a special visit from a wounded soldier recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The soldier was Ryan Pitts.

Until Pitts was awarded the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Pertile family did not know what had happened to him in Afghanistan.

What had happened was the Battle of Wanat, where some of the war's heaviest sustained fighting occurred. Forty-eight paratroopers of 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and 24 Afghan National Army soldiers faced up to 500 fighters led by Sheikh Dost Mohammed.

Launched just before sunrise, the initial wave aimed to take out a small outpost manned by nine U.S. soldiers on an elevated patch of boulders known as "OP Topside." Construction crews had been delayed, so the outpost at the time had few entrenchments or defensive emplacements, with the exception of some HESCO barriers and sandbagged positions.

A burst of machine-gun fire initiated contact, followed by an RPG round that hit the position and wounded or stunned everyone at OP Topside. Spc. Matthew Phillips managed to toss one grenade before he was mortally wounded. Pfc. Tyler Stafford and Pitts were seriously wounded, and within the first 20 minutes all nine men at the outpost were either killed or badly hurt. Insurgents then swarmed through a wire barrier that provided meager defense.

"I could look back and see the amount of fire that the OP was taking," says Sgt. Mike Denton, who was stationed below Topside. "It was just a huge dust cloud, and explosion after explosion after explosion. You knew that nothing good was happening up there."

Because of its elevated position, Topside was critical to the base. Losing it would have given the more numerous insurgents excellent firing positions. As President Barack Obama said at Pitts' Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House on July 21, "against that onslaught, one American held the line … just 22 years old, nearly surrounded, bloodied but unbowed."

Wounded in both legs and with shrapnel in his arm, Pitts crawled onto the sandbags and fired a machine gun at the approaching insurgents. Alone and bleeding, the perimeter of his position breached, his predicament was grave. He could hear enemy voices as they closed in. He made a prediction about his fate: "I was going to die and made my peace with it."

Pitts would not go down without a fight, though. He began throwing grenades, but because his attackers were so close and the grenades had a five-second fuse, he would "cook them off" for three seconds before hurling them. After exhausting his supply of hand grenades, he picked up a grenade launcher and began firing almost directly straight up to hit targets surrounding his position.

It was then that a unit from below, including Denton, arrived with needed help. Denton would receive the Silver Star for his actions that day.

"That Mike Denton and the other guys basically decided that my life was worth risking their lives to come and try to save me, that's pretty amazing," Pitts says. "He saved my life. He was able to search his best friend Jason Hovater's dead body for ammo and tell him that he loved him and then moved back on to fight … I don't know if I could have done that. I don't know if I would have had the clarity and composure to just turn around and be about business the way he was."

With support from Denton and his unit, the wounded Pitts' grim situation began to turn around. He picked up the radio and began calling for air support. Such close-in air missions were extremely dangerous, and Pitts knew it, but he had no other options.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Edward Simmons was away from the fight when Pitts, one of his best friends, made the call. "I was in a place called Chowkay, and we heard it over the TACSAT (satellite radio) that

VALOR
The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of
actions abo

*Former Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts, Medal of Honor recipient, is inducted into the nation's Hall of Heroes during a July 22 ceremony at the Pentagon.* U.S. Army photo

there was a major firefight there that they were involved in, and I heard all the fallen hero missions coming in," Simmons says. "It was really tough being in a whole 'nother valley and not be able to do anything to help. I wanted to. If I had had a helicopter, I'd have been there to help. It's tough listening to all that go down on the radio and not be able to do anything."

Staff Sgt. Adam Delaney, another close friend, listened to the radio from across the valley. "Once I heard that the OP was hit, the first thing I thought of was Ryan."

"We grew up together – Adam, Stephen and me – and Mike joined us a little later." Pitts says of the friends who served with him in Afghanistan. "We were all privates together – except Mike – and even after service we've all been in each other's weddings."

Listening to the battle unfold, Delaney held out hope for Pitts. "I knew that if there was going to be but one person left up there to hold that position, Ryan would be one of the few in the world that could do it."

"With the amount of RPGs, hand grenades and machine-gun fire that we were receiving, it just seemed like there was no lull," Denton says. "It was frustrating for a while because it felt like they always had fire superiority over us ... and then we started turning the tide."

With air assets on station, the tide indeed turned, and the enemy finally withdrew.

"I think one of the biggest things about Wanat that Ryan has been recognized for is what he did for us by staying at the OP," Denton says. "You always want to protect your brothers in combat. You love them very much, but it's not an obligation. He didn't have to stay there. But being the type of person Ryan is, I couldn't see him doing anything else. It's what he was prepared to give his life to do, and all the nine guys we lost felt the same way."

"When I found out what Ryan did, it didn't surprise me," Simmons says. "He was fearless."

"There are amazing warriors – it's in their blood, in their genes, and that's what Ryan was," Delaney says. "It's horrible to say, but he was born to be on top of that OP."

"When I think about that day, I think about what we did together," Pitts says. "I think about the guys we did lose, and I know that they helped bring me and a lot of other guys home. Valor was everywhere that day. I am in awe of the things the other guys did. I look at them and think, 'I'm never going to be as good as they are.'"

Those who fell that day were Spc. Sergio Abad, Cpl. Jonathan Ayers, Cpl. Jason Bogar, 1st Lt. Jonathan Brostrom, Sgt. Israel Garcia, Cpl. Jason Hovater, Spc. Matthew Phillips, Cpl. Pruitt Rainey and Cpl. Gunnar Zwilling. "Garcia was mortally

USAA is proud to be the
**Preferred Provider**
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion

## APPLY FOR THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS
# THE AMERICAN LEGION

Get **The American Legion USAA Rewards™ MasterCard®** and take advantage of:

## GET 2,500
## BONUS POINTS

- **0% introductory APR for 12 months** on balance transfers and convenience checks posted in the first three months after account opening **(10.9% to 25.9% variable APR after 12 months on these balances)**[1]
- **No annual fee**
- **2,500 bonus points** after your first purchase[2]

**APPLY TODAY.**

**USAA.COM/LEGIONCC or call 877-699-2654**

**USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.**

[1] **Offer subject to approval.** As of 9/1/14, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.9% to 25.9%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances ($200 maximum on balance transfers and convenience checks) and 1% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. If you transfer a balance or write a convenience check with this offer, you cannot avoid interest on purchases, even if your promotional balance transfer or convenience check has a 0% APR. You can avoid interest on purchases if you pay your account balance, including any balances you transfer with this offer, in full by your due date each month. If based on your credit history and other factors you qualify for a credit limit under $5,000, you will receive a USAA Platinum MasterCard with the same rates and fees. [2] Earn 1 point for every $1 in credit card purchases. Other restrictions apply. Rewards points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.
This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2014 USAA. 211214-1114

wounded and died saving my life," Pitts says. "Brostrom and Hovater were killed after reinforcing the OP, and Zwilling, Phillips, Rainey and Ayers fought to the death to bring us home."

Pitts and Denton were flown from Afghanistan to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, then to Walter Reed for treatment of numerous wounds and a long recovery process.

Pitts was a patient at Walter Reed when he learned about Evan Pertile.

The boy was at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and had quit eating. Chemotherapy and surgeries had taken away his appetite.

*Pitts spent time with young friend Evan Pertile prior to his Hall of Heroes induction at the Pentagon.* Photo courtesy Leta Carruth

His mother, nearly at her breaking point, made a quick trip home while Evan was getting treatments. On the plane, "I was visibly upset sitting next to this complete stranger, who asked me what was wrong. I was mortified, just crying on the plane. So finally I started talking to her."

Pertile explained to the stranger that Evan wouldn't eat. In the course of their conversation. she mentioned how much the boy loved the military and would run up to people in camouflage (sometimes even civilians wearing hunting clothes) and shout, "Army guy!"

The stranger sitting next to Pertile worked at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Soon, young Evan began to receive letters from active-duty soldiers across the country. They all had the same basic message: "If you want to grow up to be Army strong, you need to eat your food."

Evan received thousands of letters and even some Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. "(His story) spread from the Army to the Navy to the Marines, all over America, Afghanistan and Iraq," Pertile says. "We had letters from Irish soldiers. It was a worldwide phenomenon. It was a miracle, all these guys, all his battle buddies out there who we haven't met to this day.

"They said, 'Eat.' And he ate."

Carruth, who writes at the military blog From Cow Pastures to Kosovo, learned about Evan's story and contacted the family. "She said, 'Hey, I'm really involved in the military, and I'd like to meet you and Evan and get to know you,'" Pertile recalls. "Shortly thereafter, she said, 'There's a wounded warrior who's a true national hero, and he'd like to come visit Evan.' We were all about that."

Pitts met Carruth when he was at Walter Reed. "She had been a big supporter of our battalion 'The Rock' during our deployment for OEF8," he says. "She asked if I would come out to Memphis to visit a school there that had organized a sock drive for us when we were overseas."

While he was in town, would Pitts mind visiting a sick young man at St. Jude?

"It's always been tough for me to see kids who are sick or hurt," Pitts says. "It just never seems fair, especially having cancer. But one thing that has always impressed me is how resilient and strong kids are. He was sick, but at the same time he was this lively young kid."

"On May 9, 2009, when Ryan shows up with Leta, Evan was sitting in Ryan's lap within 20 seconds," Pertile says. "He loved this man. Ryan was a gift from God."

Of his time in the hospital fighting cancer, Evan remembers some of Pitts' gifts to him. "He brought me a beret and a coin and a flag," Evan says.

The battle-hardened paratrooper and the young cancer patient also bonded over an unlikely toy. "Well," says Evan, giggling a bit, "I had a little fart machine that he helped me put together, and I put it under people's chairs at the table, and I would press the button and it would make a sound like they had farted."

Pitts says he loved visiting Evan. "He was a really strong little kid. It was a great experience to see what it meant to him and to see how happy he was, even if just for that afternoon."

"It was heartwarming to no end," Pertile adds. "We felt so blessed that this man, who was so grievously wounded fighting for our country, defending his fellow soldiers, took time when he was still in treatment to come and have another battle

As Seen On TV!

# Attention Veterans

## Save Now On An Easy Access Shower Or Walk-In Bath

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS **$150** PER MONTH*

THE FIRST BATH COMMENDED BY THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

## Be able to bathe safely and worry-free with a Premier Care in Bathing Walk-In Bath.

Independence and security are only a phone call away. If you or a loved one struggle taking a bath, talk to us at Premier Care in Bathing about our extensive range of Walk-In Baths.

- Enjoy a relaxing bath again, without the fear of slipping or falling
- The walk-in door feature allows easy access and exiting
- **Hydrovescent** warm air jets soothe away your aches and pains
- Our fully licensed installers can do most any install, and in most cases in just one to two days
- Easy installation with white glove treatment

*Limited time only. Subject to approved credit. Example: Based on 9.9% APR, a down payment equal to 1/3 of contract amount, and a monthly payment of $150 for 120 months. By submitting this request, I agree that Premier Care in Bathing may contact me by telephone using automated technology at the telephone number provided. I understand this consent is not a condition of purchase.

**Limited Lifetime Warranty subject to terms and conditions.

☑ **Yes! Please send me a FREE COLOR BROCHURE about Premier Care in Bathing Walk-In Baths.** **20812**

Name

Telephone (          ) Email

(Required for Processing)

Address

City State ZIP

*Proudly made in the USA*

Send to: Premier Care in Bathing, 2330 South Nova Road, South Daytona, Florida 32119

PREMIER Premier Care in Bathing PROMISE

LIMITED LIFETIME *Warranty***

**Premier Care in Bathing**

*America's Leader in Walk-In Tubs*

CALL NOW • TOLL FREE

**1-800-297-6722**

**PROMO CODE 20812**

**www.MoreTubInfo.com**

*Ryan Pitts and his wife, Amy, share a moment with their son, Lucas, at their New Hampshire home in May.* U.S. Army photo

buddy in Evan. And to encourage and to make him even stronger meant the world to us."

Pitts and the Pertiles stayed in touch as the soldier made his transition to civilian life. He married the love of his life, Amy, and they have a 1-year-old son.

He loves his new family, but still misses the one he had in the military.

"On one hand, you are asked at 18, 19, 20 years old to grow up and make difficult decisions that no one else will have to face in their life," Pitts says. "You are going to be responsible for things that are kind of unfathomable. But on the other hand, you don't have to worry about where you are going to sleep. You don't have to worry about being fired. Your health care is taken care of. You always know you'll have a meal. It's like having a family that is always going to be there to take care of you."

After he returned from the war, Pitts graduated from the University of New Hampshire at Manchester and now works for Oracle Corp. in business development for the public sector, which includes DoD and other federal agencies. He's also on the board of directors for DreamCatchers, a New Hampshire nonprofit organization that provides social and recreational activities for individuals with special needs.

"My involvement with DreamCatchers began when I was a student," he says. "We had a business program class where we did a project to help raise money for them." Pitts and his team used a benefit auction, featuring art created by special-needs teens and adults, to raise funds.

"The mission is to help kids make friends, have fun and build confidence," Pitts says. "And it is to provide those same experiences that other kids get growing up, for these kids."

Pitts also hopes to use his platform as a Medal of Honor recipient to promote to young Americans the benefits of military service and the value of a good education.

"I find it funny that some people say that you give up your individuality when you join the military," he says. "I put on the uniform and I felt like I belonged to something. And I never felt more comfortable being myself than around the guys I served with. I can't change what's happened, but if it had to happen the same way, I would do it all over again. I feel honored that I get to look at my friends, and they are my heroes."

For young Evan, who is now cancer-free, it was the opportunity of a lifetime to be with a real hero on his day at the Pentagon, and he hopes to return the favor some day. "Ryan requested me to be there at the Pentagon, so we drove there to see him," he says. "Now I want Ryan to come to South Carolina and go to the beach house with us!"

"It was amazing, a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Pertile says of the relationship between the boy and the soldier. "He's one of the most gracious and humble men I've ever met."

*Mark Seavey is editor of The Burn Pit, The American Legion's national blog site, and a writer for* The American Legion Magazine.

# THE AMERICAN LEGION CHRISTMAS SPECIAL WITH THE OAK RIDGE BOYS!

*Featuring Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Mary Sarah and the Martin Family.*

**AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION!**

## Buy 1 DVD & receive 4 ~~3~~ DVDs FREE!

## 5 DVDs for ONLY $19.99
plus $7.95 S&H

Share this patriotic salute to our veterans with those you love this Christmas. **The American Legion Christmas Special with The Oak Ridge Boys** is the perfect gift for those hard-to-buy-for loved ones on your Christmas list.

**For mail-in orders, please send this form to:**
**The American Legion Fulfillment Center, PO Box 21009, Tulsa, OK 74121**

THIS EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL IS NOT AVAILABLE IN STORES.

**ORDER TODAY!**

☐ 5 DVDs for the price of one – $19.99

☐ 10 DVDs for the price of two – $39.98

☐ ______ DVDs for the price of $______

(please add $7.95 Shipping & Handling)

**Total enclosed:** ________

Name: ____________________

Shipping Address: ____________________

City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

☐ **Please charge my credit card.** ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ DISCOVER NOVUS

Card Number: ____________________

Expiration Date: __________ CVV# ____ Amount: $ __________

Signature: ____________________

**Billing Address:** (If different from shipping address)

☐ Same as shipping address.

Address: ____________________

City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

**FOR FASTER SERVICE CALL: 888.982.2256 OR VISIT WWW.LEGIONCHRISTMASDVD.COM**

*The sunken* Arizona *is a memorial to those killed at Pearl Harbor.* Photo courtesy Library of Congress

**HISTORY**

# Pearl Harbor: What it meant, why we remember

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor destroyed the U.S. Pacific Fleet, or so many Americans believe. But six months later, that "crippled" fleet defeated a massive Japanese task force at Midway.

Ninety-six ships were in the Navy yard at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Of these, the Japanese sank or damaged only 18, and 11 were back in service within a year.

The attacking Japanese fleet, led by Vice Adm. Chūichi Nagumo, had six aircraft carriers and two battleships, plus cruisers, destroyers and support ships. It arrived 275 miles northwest of Oahu, and at 6 a.m. launched the first attack wave of 183 aircraft; this was followed by a second wave of 168 planes. The first wave arrived over Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m., and the attack continued until 9:45 a.m.

The Japanese pilots were assigned to attack the battleships and aircraft carriers first. Cruisers and destroyers were the next priority. The dive bombers were set to attack ground targets. Fighters were to strafe as many parked aircraft as possible to ensure they did not get into the air to interfere.

Staff officers urged Nagumo to launch a third wave to strike the Navy yard, oil tank farms and submarine base at Pearl Harbor. Military historians say the destruction of these properties would have damaged the capabilities of the U.S. Pacific Fleet a great deal more than losing its battleships. Indeed, "serious operations in the Pacific would have been postponed for more than a year," said Adm. Chester Nimitz, who later commanded the Pacific Fleet. "It would have prolonged the war another two years."

Nagumo decided to withdraw, believing his force was within range of U.S. land-based bombers. Also, a third wave would require significant preparation and turnaround time, and would have meant returning planes landing after sunset. This was a considerable risk because they had not developed night carrier-landing techniques. Weather had deteriorated since the second wave, and rough seas would complicate takeoff and landing for a third wave attack.

The Japanese attack, which was a great tactical success, failed in the larger goal of destroying the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. Although the battleships were damaged, the failure to destroy the repair yards enabled the Americans to eventually return six of the eight battleships and all but one of the other vessels to active duty. The fuel reserves enabled the remainder of the fleet to continue to operate, and failure to destroy the submarine base allowed submarines to play a major role in the Pacific war.

Along Battleship Row, *Arizona*, *California* and *West Virginia* were sunk; *Nevada* was grounded and *Oklahoma* later capsized; and the three other battleships were damaged. At the airfields, 164 U.S. planes were destroyed and 128 damaged. U.S. military fatalities were 2,335, along with 68 civilians, and 1,178 wounded.

*Arizona*, which became a memorial of the attack, contains the remains of more than 900 men. *Utah* is the tomb of another 60. A million people visit *Arizona* every year.

*– Roger H. Meyer*

ADVERTISEMENT

# JUST RELEASED:
## United States Baseball Legal Tender Coin

**Only $29.95!**

*Actual size is 30.61 mm*

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and the U.S. Mint have just released the FIRST EVER *curved* American coin. This legal tender half dollar has been struck to honor the 75th anniversary of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

### First Ever Curved American Coin

The coin's curved design is a first in American history. The outward curing 'tails' side of the coin depicts a baseball—complete with intricate stitching. The inward curing 'heads' side of the half dollar reveals a classic leather baseball glove, with the curve perfectly reflecting the natural shape of a weathered and well-loved baseball mitt. Among the celebrity judges who selected this FIRST EVER curved design were Hall of Famers Joe Morgan, Brooks Robinson, Ozzie Smith, Don Sutton, and Dave Winfield. The curved design is like nothing you have ever seen before. You won't believe it when you hold it!

### Going...Going...GONE

Public demand for these coins has exploded and a number of versions have already sold out quickly. The 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Half Dollar will forever go down in history as a runaway best seller. But even though the coins are disappearing at record speed, you don't have to strike out.

If you CALL NOW, you can lock in your very own piece of baseball history—not to mention the *most unusual American coin ever struck*!

### Pristine Brilliant Uncirculated Half Dollar

Each 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Half Dollar is minted in Brilliant Uncirculated condition and comes in official U.S. Mint packaging, including the official Mint Certificate of Authenticity. Best of all, you can secure yours today for **only $29.95** (plus s/h). Due to overwhelming demand, orders are limited to a maximum of 5 coins. No dealer orders will be accepted. Lock in yours now. Hurry! A sellout is expected at any time.

When you call, ask about the extremely limited Pete Rose autographed edition.

For fastest service call today toll-free

**1-800-563-6468**

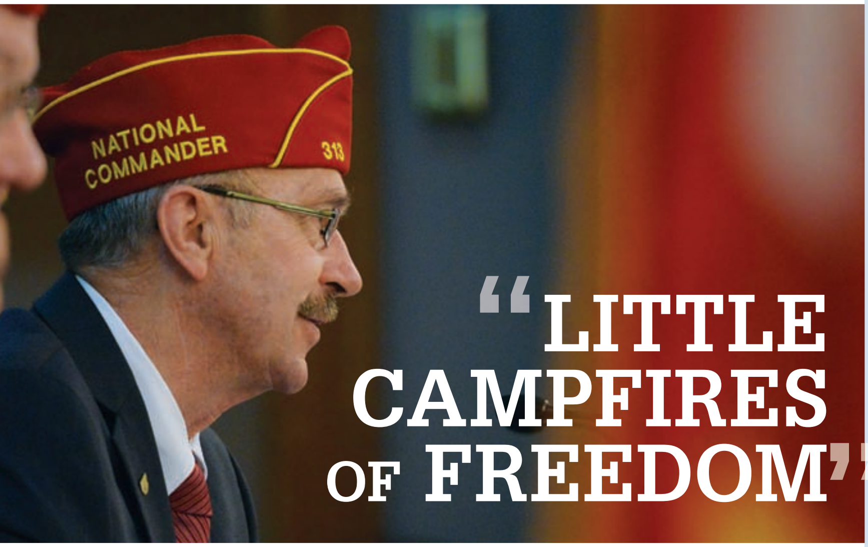
Offer Code HOF288-04
Please mention this code when you call.

**GovMint.com** • 14101 Southcross Dr. W. Dept. HOF288-04 • Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

**Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Past performance is not a predictor of future performance.** NOTE: GovMint.com® is a private distributor of worldwide government coin and currency issues and privately issued licensed collectibles and is not affiliated with the United States government. Facts and figures deemed accurate as of October 2014. ©2014 GovMint.com.

GOVMINT.COM®

THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™



# "LITTLE CAMPFIRES OF FREEDOM"

Photo by Lucas Carter

## FALL MEETINGS

During his address to the first session of the National Executive Committee's Fall Meetings, National Commander Mike Helm discussed the continuing relevancy of The American Legion and its four pillars.

**Americanism** "Legal immigration is an important building block of this country. We need to reach out to those immigrants who are here and bring them to a path of full citizenship."

**National Security** Helm expressed the Legion's support for U.S. military action against ISIS. Unfortunately, sequestration cuts are devastating the military. "We must remain a first-rate world power, and The American Legion will fight for that."

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** The Legion's willingness to call for sweeping changes at VA – and its successful efforts to help veterans cut through administrative red tape – have resulted in necessary action in the wake of last spring's administrative scandal, Helm said.

**Children & Youth** Helm reiterated that the Legion is a "God and country" organization, and urged posts to educate their communities' youth on American values, principles, service and sacrifice.

Helm closed by likening local Legion posts to lights that should illuminate their towns and cities. "They are little campfires of freedom. We need those campfires to burn a little brighter. It's up to you to go out there and engage them."

---

Wikimedia Commons

## LEGION BASEBALL

## Royals player earns ALB honor

Kansas City Royals left fielder Alex Gordon is the American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year for 2015. The Nebraska native started playing Legion Baseball at 15, and earned three consecutive Major League Baseball Golden Glove Awards and two Fielding Bible Awards. Gordon was drafted by the Kansas City Royals with the second overall pick of the 2005 MLB draft.

## SELECTED NEC RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 2014 FALL MEETINGS

### AMERICANISM

**24** Revised rules and conditions for Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
**25** Commends Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's Medal of Honor Character Development Program
**26** Commends National Flight Academy educational program
**27** Seeks amendments to Flag Code

### FINANCE

**3** Agreement with National Veterans Legal Services Program for 2014-2015
**6** American Legion corporate relationships and meeting approvals
**7** Agreement with Diamond Sports Co., Inc., as scholarship sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team
**8** Authorization for the Legion to be a sponsor of the National Speech & Debate Association
**9** Mandatory exclusive insurance coverage for American Legion Baseball teams
**10** Authorization for the Legion to enter into a relationship to promote a vehicle donation program

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**14** Oversight and awareness of Veteran of the Month program
**17** Supports adoption of a "veterans pass" for entrance to national parks and U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation recreational areas

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

**1** Reinstatement of charter of The American Legion Department of Oklahoma
**11** Organization of Marketing Committee
**30** Creation of American Legion Department Advisory Committee

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**13** Expand veterans employment and homeless services within VA
**19** Exempt VA benefits and services from PAYGO provision
**20** Urges VA to comply with all laws pertaining to the National Historic Preservation Act with its facilities
**21** Encourages legislation to provide reporting, tracking and action dealing with sexual assaults at VA facilities

### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

**12** Supports Joint Services Transcripts evaluation of military training and experience

The full text of all 30 resolutions passed at the Fall Meetings is available in the Digital Archive.

***archive.legion.org***, click on Resolutions

*Perfect Choice HD™ is simple to use, hard to see and easy to afford…*

# Invention of the Year

PERSONAL SOUND AMPLIFICATION PRODUCTS (PSAPs)

## THEY'RE NOT HEARING AIDS

Personal Sound Amplification Products use advanced digital processing to amplify the frequencies of human speech. Thanks to the efforts of a doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, this product is manufactured in an efficient production process that enables us to make it available at an affordable price.

The unit is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know you have it on. It's comfortable and won't make you feel like you have something stuck in your ear. It provides high quality audio so soft sounds and distant conversations will be easier to understand.

Need an extra volume boost? Try Perfect Choice HD™ for yourself with our exclusive home trial.

| | |
|---|---|
| **WEIGHT** | Less than 1 ounce |
| **SOUND QUALITY** | Excellent: Optimized for speech |
| **FITTING REQUIRED?** | No |
| **ONE-ON-ONE SETUP** | Free |
| **RETURN POLICY** | 60 Days |

Perfect Choice HD™

**Call now toll free for the lowest price ever.**

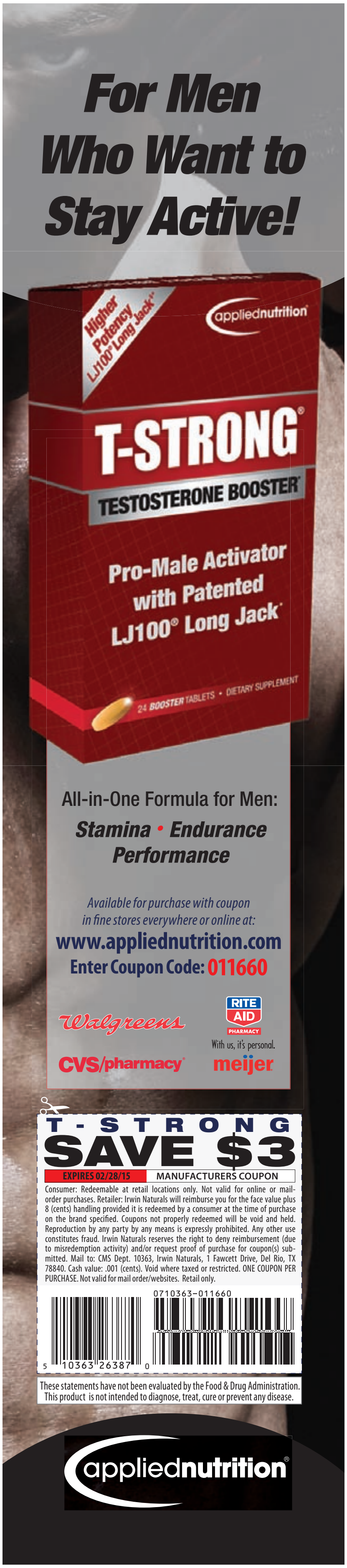
**1-877-647-1419**

Please mention promotional code 48657.

1998 Ruffin Mill Road,
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Not available in the state of Washington.

81009


For Men Who Want to Stay Active!

All-in-One Formula for Men:

*Stamina • Endurance Performance*

*Available for purchase with coupon in fine stores everywhere or online at:*

www.appliednutrition.com

Enter Coupon Code: 011660

T-STRONG

SAVE $3

EXPIRES 02/28/15 MANUFACTURERS COUPON

Consumer: Redeemable at retail locations only. Not valid for online or mail-order purchases. Retailer: Irwin Naturals will reimburse you for the face value plus 8 (cents) handling provided it is redeemed by a consumer at the time of purchase on the brand specified. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and held. Reproduction by any party by any means is expressly prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Irwin Naturals reserves the right to deny reimbursement (due to misredemption activity) and/or request proof of purchase for coupon(s) submitted. Mail to: CMS Dept. 10363, Irwin Naturals, 1 Fawcett Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840. Cash value: .001 (cents). Void where taxed or restricted. ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Not valid for mail order/websites. Retail only.

0710363-011660

5 10363 26387 0

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

***CHILDREN & YOUTH***

# CWF awards $566,691 in grants

Now in its 60th year, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) recently awarded $566,691 in grants to 18 nonprofit organizations. They include:

**Angel Flight West** of Santa Monica, Calif., received $10,000 for outreach and marketing efforts to reach potential volunteer pilots and families in need of medical transportation.

**Birth Defect Research for Children** of Orlando, Fla., received $22,650 to redesign its website and advertise available resources to families and medical professionals. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored the grant.

**Children's Institute, Inc.,** of Rochester, N.Y., received $7,580 to produce and distribute DVDs to educate Boys and Girls Club staff on the needs of military children. The Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion sponsored the grant.

**Children's Organ Transplant Association** of Bloomington, Ind., received $43,595 for an informational campaign that will connect reserve and National Guard COTA families to American Legion posts. The Auxiliary and SAL sponsored the grant.

**National Autism Association** of Attleboro Falls, Mass., received $58,075 to fund its Big Red Safety Box program. The Auxiliary and SAL sponsored the grant.

**Spina Bifida Association** of Arlington, Va., received $25,000 to print "Another Way to Go," which educates children about catheter care. The Auxiliary sponsored the grant.

Read about other grant recipients online:

***www.legion.org/cwf***

2014 24kt $50 Gold Buffalo *ONLY* $1295.00

2014 Silver American Eagles *ONLY* $19.95

2014 $5 Gold American Eagles *ONLY* $129.00

Ask about our St Gaudens Special!

Special Arrangements made for acquisitions of $50K or more.

855-307-6960

CHECK
MONEY ORDER
BANK WIRE
Vault Code #AL1214

**Price and availability subject to change.** Coins shown not actual size. Prices shown are Gold base of $1218/oz and silver base of $17.20/oz. Gold Buffalo max 1 coin. $5 Gold Eagle max 10 coins (limit 1 GAE at dealer cost). Silver Eagle max 10 coins.

***AMERICANISM***

# Legion medals recognize character

Since 1926, the Legion has recognized students' character and good citizenship through the School Award Medal Program.

Awards are given to one boy and one girl in the graduating classes of elementary school, junior and senior high school, and college. Those who receive medals must demonstrate six qualities that define character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

With the 2014-2015 school year underway, Legionnaires are encouraged to visit local schools to promote the program.

Download a School Awards program brochure online:

***www.legion.org/publications***, under Americanism

# OFFICIAL MILITARY VETERAN HATS & RINGS

*All hats are embroidered, solid back, 100% brush cotton twill. Adjustable strap - one size fits all.*

© Rush Industries, Inc. 2014

WWII*

Korea

Vietnam

Disabled Vet.

USA Pride

Army*

Navy

Marines

Coast Guard

Air Force*

**SUPER SALE** *ONLY* **$12.95** *EA.*

**All Hats Available With or Without Eggs***

***Richly Embroidered Scrambled Eggs Add $5ea. (shown on brim)**

## MILITARY SERVICE RINGS LIFETIME WARRANTY

**Sugg. Retail ~~$150.00~~**

**Sale Price**

**ANY RING** *ONLY* **$39.95** *EA.*

Army

Navy

Special Forces

Coast Guard

Marines

Air Force

Richly crafted in 18K gold electroplate or in white rhodium plated, hand finished and precisely set with Ruby or Sapphire Austrian crystal. Logos are etched into stone with gold leaf, each side contains finely sculpted emblems of each branch. Or choose our new rings in white rhodium plated with 18K gold electroplated insignias (shown on top) *Perfect Gift!*

**Order toll free: 1-866-741-7874 or at www.RushIndustries.com Use Code:HR386PK**

**30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE** (less S&H) **FREE** Gift Pouch!

Please select Style and Quantity:

| **Military Hats:** | Army | Navy | Marines | Air Force | Coast Guard | USA Pride | WWII | Korea | Vietnam | Disabled Veteran |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No Eggs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs Add $5 *(Shown Above*)* | | | | | | N/A | | | | |

| **Military Rings:** | Army | Navy | Marines | Air Force | Coast Guard | Special Forces |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gold Color w/ Stone | | | | | | |
| Silver Color w/ Stone | | | | | | |
| Silver Color w/o Stone | | | | | N/A | N/A |

Ring Size(s):
8____ 9____ 10____
11____ 12____ 13____
14____ 15____

*For Rings or Hats add $4.95 S&H plus $1.95 for each add'l item*

*Note: For personal checks, there will be a 10 day verification period.*

**Send to: Rush Industries, Inc. Dept. (HR386PK)**
**263 Horton Highway, Mineola, NY 11501**

Enclosed is $ __________ or charge it

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Acct. #: ____________________ Exp. Date: ____/____

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: __________ State____ Zip______

Phone # (____)__________ Email____________

*A MARSOC Marine trains at Camp Lejeune, N.C.* U.S. Marine Corps photo

**ACTIVE DUTY**

# Return of the 'Raiders'

Marine Corps special operations units are adopting the name "Raiders," the same name used by Marine commando units during World War II, *The Washington Post* reports.

"The original Raider units were established as the Marine Corps took part in the U.S. military's brutal island-hopping campaign across the Pacific," the *Post* explains. "Raiders participated in dangerous operations frequently, often landing on hostile beaches in small rubber boats."

The Marine Corps did not have a special operations component until 2003, when the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) was established. Ever since, some MARSOC Marines have unofficially called themselves "Raiders."

"We are proud and honored to adopt the name Marine Raider, carrying on the rich heritage passed along to MARSOC by the Raiders of World War II," said outgoing MARSOC chief Maj. Gen. Mark Clark.

**VERBATIM**

> **"... we have a Marine hero, suffering from PTSD incurred from service in Afghanistan, who is being denied treatment for that PTSD because he mistakenly made a wrong turn south of our border. It's time for the president to call Mexican President Peña Nieto and demand an immediate release. This has gone on far too long."**

**American Legion National Commander Mike Helm,** calling on President Barack Obama to implore Mexican authorities to free Marine Corps veteran Andrew Tahmooressi, who has been imprisoned in Tijuana since his arrest March 31. Helm urged Legionnaires to contact the White House and Congress and tell them to "pressure Mexico to do the right thing."

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

# Islamic extremism nation's top threat, Americans say

A recent poll asked Americans what they believe to be the greatest security threats facing the United States. Here they are, by percent:

| | |
|---|---|
| **71** | Islamic extremist groups such as al-Qaida |
| **67** | The Islamic State (aka ISIS, ISIL) |
| **59** | Iran's nuclear program |
| **57** | North Korea's nuclear program |
| **53** | Tensions between Russia and its neighbors |
| **52** | Spread of infectious diseases |
| **48** | China's rise |
| **48** | Climate change |

Source: Pew Research Center/*USA Today*

DoD

**MILITARY AFFAIRS**

# U.S., South Korea form search-and-destroy unit

In the event of renewed hostilities on the Korean peninsula, the United States and the Republic of Korea will deploy a combined military unit "tasked with destroying North Korea's weapons of mass destruction," *The Guardian* reports.

The special unit will be mechanized and commanded by a U.S. major general. The unit is being stood up the first half of 2015, according to ROK defense officials, who report that it will be the first combined "field combat" unit to carry out wartime operations.

**Thermal** Diabetic Socks

# COLD FEET? NOT ANYMORE!

## GREAT FOR DIABETICS!

**Set Of 3**

**FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING**

**GUARANTEED WARMTH**
Exposure Rated To
**-5°F**

Non-Binding Comfort for:

- Swollen Legs & Feet
- Poor Circulation
- Edema
- Cold Feet
- Hypersensitivity
- And more!

**Specially Recommended For Diabetics**

Guaranteed Warmth Even In Sub-Zero Weather

Soft, absorbent, breathable cotton-rich woven socks are so comfortable & warm, you'll never want to take them off! Toasty thermal rating guarantees heat-retaining cold relief even in minus 5° Fahrenheit temperatures. A warm helping hand for diabetic, sensitive or painful feet 'n calves. Imported of cotton & polyester with gentle, non-binding top band. Set of 3 pairs. Fits sock sizes 9-11 & 10-13

Only $4 33 per pair
(sold only as set of 3)

Dept. 69893 © 2014 Dream Products, Inc. (Price valid for 1 yr.)

**www.DreamProducts.com**
website offers may vary

**1-800-530-2689**
Order Now Toll-Free

Receive A Free Surprise Gift with every order

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

| **Thermal** Diabetic Socks | |
|---|---|
| #83378 ____S/3 Sock Size 9-11 @ $12.99 | $ |
| #83379 ____S/3 Sock Size 10-13 @ $12.99 | $ |
| **CA residents must add 7.5% sales tax** | $ |
| FREE Regular Shipping & Handling | $ FREE |
| ☐ ✔ **FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING** *(optional)*<br>**Add An Additional $2.95**<br>**(receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)** | $ 2.95 |
| **TOTAL** | $ |

Please Print Clearly

Check or money order **payable** to: **Dream Products, Inc.**

**Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496**

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover®/NOVUS℠Cards

**Dept. 69893**

Card# ______________________

Exp. Date ___ / ___

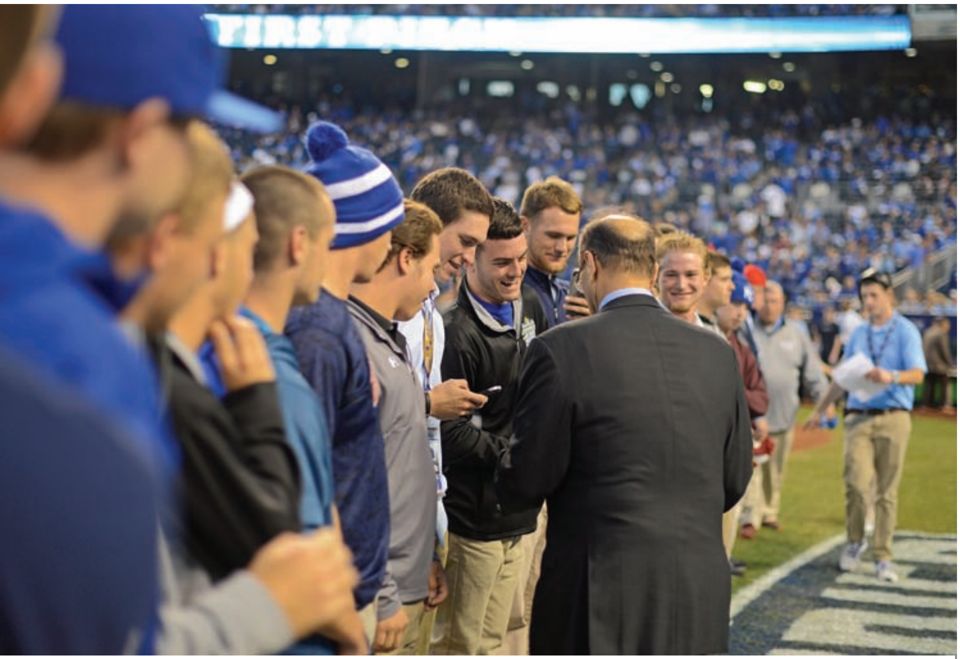
Name ______________________

Address ______________________

City ______________________ ST____ Zip ______________________

Daytime Phone # ______________________

Email Address ______________________



**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

*Brooklawn, N.J., right fielder Fran Kinsey talks to former New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre on Oct. 22, when the American Legion Baseball World Series champions were honored on the field before Game 2 of the Major League Baseball World Series at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.* Photo by Lucas Carter

FREE
Korean War
60th Anniversary Coin

Now you can preserve important history of the Korean War with a FREE U.S. Half-Dollar.

Coin features the 38th Parallel – the line that divided a country. Imagine owning this 60th anniversary commemorative coin – for just $2.95 shipping and guaranteed delivery.

*Just $2.95 shipping and guaranteed delivery.*

Send today and you'll also receive special collector's information and other interesting coins on approval. Limit one coin. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

FREE Korean War Coin
☑ **Yes!** Send me the Korean War coin. Enclosed is $2.95 for shipping and guaranteed delivery. Satisfaction guaranteed. Limit of one coin.
**Quick order at MysticAd.com/JJ108**
Name ____________
Address ____________
City/State/ Zip ____________
*NY State residents add sales tax.*
☐ Check or money order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
Exp. Date ____/____
Send Payment to: Mystic Stamp Company, Dept. JJ108, 9700 Mill St., Camden, NY 13316-9111

**FALL MEETINGS**

## History contest winners named

The winners of the 2014 National Post History and National Department History contests are:

### One-Year Department Narrative

**First place:** North Carolina
**Second place:** Indiana
**Third place:** Georgia

### One-Year Department Yearbook

**First place:** Florida
**Second place:** Ohio
**Third place:** North Carolina

### One-Year Post Narrative History

**First place:** Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, Mo.
**Second place:** The Woodlands Post 305, The Woodlands, Texas
**Third place:** John D. Combo Post 120, Disputanta, Va.

### One-Year Post Yearbook History

**First place:** Alois-Dreikosen Post 469, Marathon, Wis.
**Second place:** Julius L. Shryer Post 430, Durant, Iowa
**Third place (tie):** Veterans Memorial Post 347, Lady Lake, Fla., and Adams Township Post 553, Toledo, Ohio

**VERBATIM**

> “Considering the elderly generation that we service, so many people are afraid of funeral homes. So why not be able to do it from your car?”

**Ivan Phillips,** owner of Paradise Funeral Chapel in Saginaw, Mich., on his addition of a drive-thru viewing window. At the press of a button, visitors have three minutes to view the deceased in a casket, and may then record their visit and leave a memorial contribution. Though he's been criticized as insensitive, Phillips says the service is for people who are otherwise not physically able to pay their respects.

Source: MLive.com/*The Saginaw News*

Figis® Est. 1944
Gifts in Good Taste®

Introductory Offer!

Make the holidays delicious with a Gift from the Heartland

Our Tasteful Traditions assortment delivers the tastiest treats! Meats, cheeses, spreads, preserves, and more…It's a gift overflowing with quality; perfect for sharing with your friends and family. Net wt. 2 lbs. 15 oz.

**Gift 4542**…~~$39.99~~

**Only $29.99**

Add $4.99 per gift for standard shipping and handling.

Limited Time Only
25% OFF
Discount applies only to Gift 4542

**Figis.com • 1-800-422-3444 Use source code 075/9911**

Offer is valid on orders placed before 12/31/14. Offer cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion.

60K-FSA4

---

Do you or a loved one STRUGGLE on the stairs?

We have the AFFORDABLE solution!

- The **WORLD LEADER** in stairlifts
- **BUY DIRECT** from the manufacturer and **SAVE**
- The **MOST TRUSTED** name in the industry
- Works on **ALL TYPES** of staircases

*CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE INFORMATION KIT AND DVD!*

**1-877-242-3122**

ACORN
STAIRLIFTS

AcornStairlifts.com/al

*The only stairlift to earn the **Ease-of-Use** commendation from the Arthritis Foundation.*

EASE-OF-USE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

*LIMITED TIME OFFER!*
***$250 OFF****
*PURCHASE OF A NEW STAIRLIFT!*
**EXPIRES February 28, 2015**

*Not valid on previous purchases. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on refurbished models. Only valid towards purchase of a NEW Acorn Stairlift directly from the manufacturer. $250 discount will be applied to new orders placed before February 28, 2015. Please mention this ad when calling.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

## Nine Samsung scholarships awarded

The Samsung American Legion National Selection Committee recently selected nine students to receive scholarships of $20,000 for undergraduate studies:

- Heidi Bau, Slayton, Minn.
- Samantha Goerger, Wyndmere, N.D.
- Sean Greiner, Bluffton, S.C.
- Matthew Hanisch, Tulsa, Okla.
- Kyle Kozlowski, Washington, Pa.
- Jonathan Mullen, Andover, Minn.
- Colter Norick, Columbia Falls, Mont.
- Mason Pearcy, Slidell, La.
- Delaney Tevis, Columbia, Mo.

The Samsung scholarship is for high school juniors who participate in Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of veterans eligible to join the Legion.

***www.legion.org/scholarships***

**MERCHANDISE**

## Bears for Legionnaires

The Vermont Teddy Bear Company has introduced a new line, with sales to help American Legion programs.

The nation's top producer of handcrafted teddy bears is showing its patriotic colors this holiday season with the introduction of limited-edition bears for Legionnaires, with caps that can be customized for any American Legion post, district or county in any department. The company is also unveiling a collection of bears honoring all branches of military service.

Twenty percent of proceeds from the bears' sales will be donated to The American Legion to help fulfill its commitment to assist those who have served and are currently serving in the nation's military, and to promote patriotic values in communities everywhere.

These specially designed bears are available only through Dec. 24, 2015. They can be ordered online at **www.vermontteddybear.com/legion** or by calling toll-free **(800) 829-BEAR (2327)**.

1/10 oz. .999 Fine Silver
Buffalo Round
$2.65
Each
Limit 50

1 oz. Fine Silver
$19.95
2014 Silver
American Eagle
Limit 2

1/10 oz. Fine Gold
2014 $5 Gold
American Eagle
$139.00
Limit 1

1-866-789-2646
www.ImperialCurrency.com
Prices and availability subject to change.
We reserve the right to withdraw
this offer at anytime.
New Customers Only
VAULT CODE
AL1214

**POST SUPPORT**

## Founding Fathers pours into more states

The Founding Fathers Brewing Company is off to a great start in selling specialty beer to American Legion posts in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida.

Founding Fathers is donating 50 percent of its net profits for all products sold through the posts back to The American Legion. In addition, the Legion will receive donations from sales outside the posts.

"The reception from the posts has been fantastic," said Phil Knutsen, Founding Fathers CEO. "We have had an incredible show of support and response to the quality of the product line by post management and members alike. Once people try it, they are convinced to drink the beer that supports their organization and all it does for veterans."

Founding Fathers beer will roll into additional departments prior to the end of the year, including Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, the District of Columbia, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Texas. The brewery's goal is to reach national distribution by the end of 2015.

Founding Fathers has posted several early American Legion success stories online.

***www.foundingfathersbrewingco.com***

NEW

No Contract

# "My friends all hate their cell phones… I love mine!" Here's why.

Better Sound and Longer Battery Life

FREE Car Charger

*Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to Jitterbug.*

***"Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine."*** Not Jitterbug®, it features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has an oversized display so you can actually see it.

***"I had to get my son to program it."*** Your Jitterbug set-up process is simple. We'll even pre-program it with your favorite numbers.

***"I tried my sister's cell phone… I couldn't hear it."*** Jitterbug is designed with an improved speaker. There's an adjustable volume control, and Jitterbug is hearing-aid compatible.

***"I don't need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone, I just want to talk with my family and friends."*** Life is complicated enough… Jitterbug is simple.

***"What if I don't remember a number?"*** Friendly, helpful Jitterbug operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

***"I'd like a cell phone to use in an emergency, but I don't want a high monthly bill."*** Jitterbug has a plan to fit your needs… and your budget.

***"My cell phone company wants to lock me in on a two-year contract!"*** Not Jitterbug, there's no contract to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.

|  | Basic 14 | Basic 19 |
|---|---|---|
| Monthly Minutes | 50 | was ~~100~~ NOW 200 |
| Monthly Rate | $14.99 | $19.99 |
| Operator Assistance | 24/7 | 24/7 |
| 911 Access | FREE | FREE |
| Long Distance Calls | No add'l charge | No add'l charge |
| Voice Dial | FREE | FREE |
| Nationwide Coverage | YES | YES |
| Friendly Return Policy[1] | 30 days | 30 days |

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

***"I'll be paying for minutes I'll never use!"*** Not with Jitterbug, unused minutes carry over to the next month, there's no roaming fee and no additional charge for long distance.

***"My phone's battery only lasts a couple of days."*** The Jitterbug's battery lasts for up to 25 days on standby.

**Enough talk.** Isn't it time you found out more about the cell phone that's changing all the rules? Call now, Jitterbug product experts are standing by.

Available in Blue, Red (shown) and White.

**Order now** and receive a **FREE Car Charger** for your Jitterbug – a $24.99 value. Call now!

**NEW** Jitterbug5 Cell Phone

Call toll free today to get your own Jitterbug5.

Please mention promotional code 48658.

1-877-433-3931

www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards.

jitterbug5

firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond®
1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

100% U.S. Based Customer Service

47618

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Jitterbug is owned by GreatCall, Inc. Your invoices will come from GreatCall. All rate plans and services require the purchase of a Jitterbug phone and a one-time set up fee of $35. Coverage and service is not available everywhere. Other charges and restrictions may apply. Screen images simulated. There are no additional fees to call Jitterbug's 24-hour U.S. Based Customer Service. However, for calls to an Operator in which a service is completed, minutes will be deducted from your monthly balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator, plus an additional 5 minutes. Monthly minutes carry over and are available for 60 days. If you exceed the minute balance on your account, you will be billed at 35¢ for each minute used over the balance. Monthly rate plans do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges. Prices and fees subject to change. [1]We will refund the full price of the GreatCall phone and the activation fee (or set-up fee) if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will be deducted from your refund for each minute over 30 minutes. You will be charged a $10 restocking fee. The shipping charges are not refundable. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Samsung is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. ©2014 Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC. ©2014 GreatCall, Inc. ©2014 by *first*STREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

*A missile is launched by an Iron Dome battery in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod.*

Getty Images

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

## Dome sweet dome

Israel's Iron Dome rocket- and mortar-defense system intercepted 735 hostile inbound targets and registered a kill rate of nearly 90 percent during the most recent war in and around the Palestinian territory of Gaza, *Aviation Week* reports.

Israel deployed six Iron Dome batteries around key urban centers. "Of 4,594 rockets and mortars fired from the Gaza Strip in 50 days of conflict, Iron Dome failed to intercept only 70 rockets where the system was deployed," according to *Aviation Week*, which notes that the system disregards rockets and missiles deemed unthreatening to protected zones.

"Iron Dome almost negated Hamas' medium- and long-range capabilities," an Israeli air force officer said. "Those 735 rockets intercepted represent dozens of Israeli casualties whose lives were saved."

U.S. taxpayers have contributed some $1.3 billion to development and deployment of the Iron Dome system, including $225 million in fresh funding this past summer and autumn for restocking Iron Dome interceptor rockets.

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

## DoD real estate, by the numbers

**30 million**

Total acres of Pentagon-owned real estate

**$800 billion**

Total value in dollars

**500,000**

Approximate number of structures

**53%**

Overall occupancy rate of Pentagon-owned structures

Source: Real Clear Defense, Government Accountability Office

Give a Little TENDERNESS®

HEARTLAND QUALITY OMAHA STEAKS® SINCE 1917

Send world-famous, exquisitely tender Omaha Steaks® Filet Mignons, Top Sirloins and more. 100% Guaranteed and delivered right to their door, **Save 69%** when you order The Favorite Gift.

The Favorite Gift

2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
4 Stuffed Baked Potatoes
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets

49377KMT

Reg $164.00 | Now Only $49.99

Perfect Gifts GUARANTEED

OMAHA STEAKS 100% GUARANTEE

Plus get 4 more Burgers FREE

Call 1-800-811-7832 and ask for 49377KMT www.OmahaSteaks.com/tfg07

Limit 2 pkgs. per address. 4 free burgers sent to each shipping address that includes the Favorite Gift 49377. Limit 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers per in-store purchase and/or shipment. Standard S&H added per address. Not valid with other offers. Offer expires 12/31/14. ©2014 OCG | 410C120 KMT | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

Doctor **Designed.** Audiologist **Tested.** FDA **Registered.**

# Affordable *New* Digital Hearing Aid *Outperforms* Expensive Competitors Delivers *Crystal -Clear* Natural Sound

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical grade ALL DIGITAL affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of $3,000 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear, natural sound—in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind—without suffering through "whistling" and annoying background noise.

After years of extensive research, Dr. Cherukuri has now created a ***state-of-the-art*** digital hearing aid that's packed with the features of those expensive $3,000 competitors – at a ***fraction of the price***.

## New Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for "all things digital" caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased at a fraction of that price), yet the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remained out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance.

The doctor evaluated all the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version—called the **MD**HearingAid®***AIR*** for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE 45 DAY RISK FREE TRIAL

Proudly assembled in the USA from Domestic & Imported Components.

BBB RATING A

Not available in the state of Washington

✓ Nearly *invisible*

✓ *Crystal-clear* natural sound

✓ No suffering with *'whistling'* or background noise

✓ *Outperforms* $3,000 models

✓ Amazing *low price*

## Affordable Digital Technology

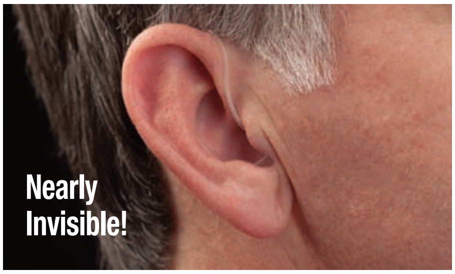
Using advanced digital technology, the **MD**HearingAid®***AIR*** automatically adjusts to your listening environment—prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise. Experience all of the sounds you've been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor designed and approved hearing aid comes with a full year's supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear buds are so comfortable you won't realize you're wearing them.

## Try It Yourself At Home With Our 45 Day Risk-Free Trial

Of course, hearing is believing and we invite you to try it for yourself with our RISK-FREE 45-day home trial. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within that time period for a full refund of your purchase price.

MDHearingAid® AIR

FREE Batteries For A Year!



## Ecstatic Users Cheer

*"I recently purchased an MDHearingAid AIR for both ears. They are as small and work as well as a $5,000 pair I had previously tried."*

— Dennis

*"I'm a physician, and this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional overly-priced hearing aids. I will be recommending (it)."*

— Dr. Chang

*"As a retired advanced practice nurse, I purchased the MDHearingAid AIR after the* Wall Street Journal *review. I am so pleased with the quality. You are providing a real service to our affordable health care."*

— Ned Rubin

## Compare to Expensive $3000 Hearing Aids

- FDA-Registered Hearing Aid -– not an imitation "sound amplifier"
- Nearly Invisible open-fit digital hearing aid
- Save Money – 90% less than traditional hearing aids
- 24/7 Physician/Audiologist Support
- FREE - Batteries, Color User Manual, Tubing and Domes, Cleaning Tool, and Shipping
- 45 day in-home trial
- 100% Money Back Guarantee

**For the Lowest Price plus FREE Shipping Call Today**

**800-873-0541**

Use Offer Code AQ34 to get FREE Batteries for a Full Year!

www.MDHearingAid.com/AQ34

**MEDIA**

# Legion TV messages focus on mental health

A nationwide American Legion television campaign to raise funds and awareness about mental health issues affecting veterans began airing in late October. A series of 30-second and 90-second messages tell the story of a Gulf War veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder who received life-changing assistance from an American Legion service officer.

The Grammy Award-winning Oak Ridge Boys – who share The American Legion's passion to help veterans and their families – appear in the spots, which invite viewers to join the effort to assist those who served our nation in uniform by pledging $19 per month or more to The American Legion. Those who make such a commitment, along with those who make one-time gifts of $228 or more, receive special commemorative coins.

The veteran featured in the media campaign was invited onto the set of "The American Legion Christmas Special" with The Oak Ridge Boys, featuring Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers and other performers. DVDs of the Christmas special are available at **www.legionchristmasdvd.com** or by calling **(888) 982-2256**.

*The family of Quinton Diets joins The Oak Ridge Boys on the set of "The American Legion Christmas Special." Diets, who credits the Legion with helping him through difficult times, is featured in a nationwide TV campaign.*

Donations can be made easily and securely by visiting **www.supportlegion.org** or by calling a toll-free phone number listed in each television spot (the numbers vary, based on geographic region).

**PERSONAL FINANCE**

# Make a financial gift for the long term

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**

**J.J. MONTANARO**

In my mind's eye, I can still see the big white envelope nestled in the branches of our Christmas tree weeks before the holiday. For an 8-year-old boy, it wasn't nearly as exciting as the array of toys that appeared on Christmas morning. But years later, when I cashed in the savings bonds contained in that envelope, I was pretty darned excited.

And while those toys – not to mention some clothes I never wanted in the first place – are long forgotten, the bonds planted the seeds for my interest in all things money.

As you survey the youngsters on your gift list this year, consider planting some of those seeds instead of adding to an already full toy box. Initially, the child may give your gift the same indifferent reaction as to a new sweater. But maybe, just maybe, he or she will thank you later.

Here are four ways to take the long view on gifting:

- **Savings bonds** These old standbys are still available, but not in the paper form I remember. Today you buy the bonds electronically at **treasurydirect.gov**, and the recipient will need to open an electronic account to hold them. Another change: now you can buy I Bonds, a type of savings bond that offers an inflation-linked return. Of course, you can always print out a certificate that would fit nicely in a big white envelope.
- **College savings plans** College costs continue to soar, as does the debt load of recent graduates. Fight that trend by setting up or contributing to a child's 529 college savings plan. These accounts offer a ton of flexibility and some pretty exciting tax benefits.
- **Stock certificates** Buy the child shares of a stock, then order and frame the certificate. It's never too early to drive home the idea of investing for the future, and holding stock is a great way to whet a kid's appetite. It's fun to walk into a store or business with my teenagers and see them roll back their shoulders, push out their chests and exclaim, "I own a little bit of this."
- **Savings accounts** I encourage folks to start with this basic building block when setting up a solid financial base. It's not a bad place to launch a child's efforts, either. We teach our kids to "pay yourself first" by matching any contributions they make to their own savings accounts – which, naturally, they can't touch until college.
- **Roth IRAs** Boy, I wish these were around back when I was mowing lawns. This gift only works if the child is a bit older and has what the IRS terms "compensation" – wages, tips or self-employment income. But if you're looking to start a long-term project, the potential for decades of tax-free compounding can be attractive.

Whether it's one of these ideas or another, a plan to enrich a child's financial life usually starts far from the toy box.

*J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.*

***www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances***

# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

## How Does Harbor Freight Sell GREAT QUALITY Tools at the LOWEST Prices?

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories, so our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middle man and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 500+ Stores Nationwide.

**SUPER COUPON**

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM

**LIMIT 1 -** Save 20% on any one item purchased at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon, gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans or on any of the following: compressors, generators, tool storage or carts, welders, floor jacks, Towable Ride-On Trencher, Saw Mill (Item 61712/62366/67138), Predator Gas Power Items, open box items, in-store event or parking lot sale items. Not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

41944558

**SUPER COUPON**

**FREE**

WITH ANY PURCHASE

CEN-TECH

7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER

ITEM 90899/98025/69096

Item 90899 shown

$14.99 VALUE

**LIMIT 1 -** Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

41926990

SUPER COUPON!

CENTRALPNEUMATIC

**3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR**

Item 95275 shown

LOT NO. 95275 60637/69486/61615

SAVE 50%

$39.99 REG. PRICE $79.99

41958072

**LIMIT 4 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

LOT NO. 68048/69227/62116

SAVE $85

**RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK**

Item 68048 shown

- Weighs 74 lbs.

$74.99

REG. PRICE $159.99

41972063

**LIMIT 3 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

"Voted the Best Deal in Winching" – Off-Road Magazine

SAVE $200

**12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

Item 60813 shown

LOT NO. 68142/61256/60813/61889

$299.99 ~~$399.99~~

REG. PRICE ~~$499.99~~

BADLAND

41981953

**LIMIT 3 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

★ WINNER ★ Truckin' Magazine

**26", 4 DRAWER TOOL CART**

US★GENERAL

LOT NO. 95659 61634/61952

- 580 lb. Capacity

SAVE $180

Item 95659 shown

$99.99 ~~$159.99~~ REG. PRICE $279.99

41926151

**LIMIT 4 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

**40 PIECE 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SOCKET SET**

PITTSBURGH

LOT NO. 47902 61328

SAVE 60%

Item 47902 shown

$3.99 REG. PRICE $9.99

41935066

**LIMIT 6 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

**3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER**

CEN-TECH

- 900 Peak Amps

SAVE 33%

LOT NO. 38391/60657 62306/62376

Item 60657 shown

$39.99 REG. PRICE $59.99

41947345

**LIMIT 3 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

Haul Master

**TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH**

LOT NO. 94141 69874 61320 61913 61914

SAVE 66%

Item 94141 shown

$19.99 REG. PRICE $59.99

41970758

**LIMIT 6 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

★ WINNER ★ Best Value Award The Family Handyman

**12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW WITH LASER GUIDE**

NEW

LOT NO. 69684/61776/61969/61970

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

$139.99 ~~$199.99~~

Item 69684 shown

REG. PRICE ~~$299.99~~

SAVE $160

41973325

**LIMIT 3 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

LOT NO. 93888/60497 61899/62399

**MOVER'S DOLLY**

Haul Master

- 1000 lb. Capacity

Item 93888 shown

$8.99 REG. PRICE $14.99

SAVE 40%

41977671

**LIMIT 8 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

**10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE**

SAVE $110

HFT

Item 69039 shown

$189.99

REG. PRICE $299.99

LOT NO. 69039 68217/60727/62286

41978153

**LIMIT 5 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PREDATOR GENERATORS

SUPER QUIET

**6500 PEAK/ 5500 RUNNING WATTS 13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS**

- 74 dB Noise Level

LOT NO. 68529/69672

LOT NO. 68526/69674 CALIFORNIA ONLY

Item 68529 shown

SAVE $140

$459.99

REG. PRICE $599.99

41981580

**LIMIT 3 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

**2.4" COLOR LCD DIGITAL INSPECTION CAMERA**

CEN-TECH

LOT NO. 67979 61839/62359

Item 67979 shown

SAVE $80

$69.99 REG. PRICE $149.99

41925812

**LIMIT 5 -** Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/15/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Over 25 Million Satisfied Customers
- No Hassle Return Policy
- Lifetime Warranty On All Hand Tools
- 500+ Stores Nationwide
- HarborFreight.com 800-423-2567

ASK A SERVICE OFFICER

# VA opens burn pit registry

**Tracy L. Davis**
*Department Service Officer, Missouri*

**Q:** ***Am I eligible to fill out VA's burn pit questionnaire?***

**A:** VA recently launched the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for servicemembers and veterans who may have been exposed to airborne hazards such as burn pits, oil well fires, dust storms or pollution. The registry will help VA and doctors better assess veterans' health, and determine to what extent air pollution from burn pits has caused diseases and other conditions in servicemembers.

Participation in the registry is voluntary and open to any veteran or servicemember who deployed as part of:

- Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Operation New Dawn
- Anywhere in the Southwest Asia theater of operations after Aug. 2, 1990, including Djibouti, Africa, after Sept. 11, 2001

Veterans and servicemembers can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards as well as other health concerns.

**Complete the questionnaire online:**

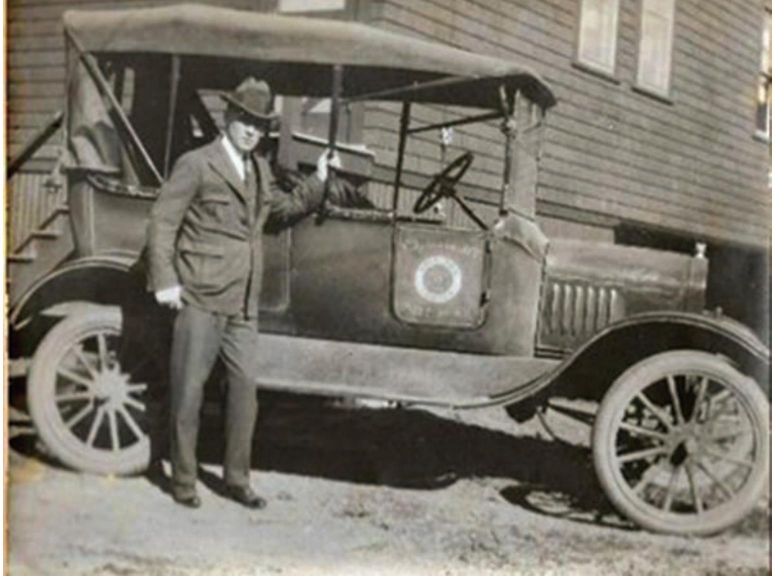
***mobilehealth.va.gov/app/burn-pit-registry***

VA will maintain the security of all information provided in the registry, and will determine eligibility for the registry based on deployment information from DoD.

**Find an American Legion service officer in your state:**

***www.legion.org/serviceofficers***

*Do you have a question for Department of Missouri Service Officer Tracy Davis about the claims process or veterans benefits in general? Send it to* ***askso@legion.org***



CENTENNIAL

# Post 48, Oxnard, Calif.

The first post home of American Legion Post 48 in Oxnard, Calif., was a Ford Model T, circa 1917 to 1920. The Aug. 21, 1921, *American Legion Weekly* described Adjutant Charles Daly's "flivver" as a "rotating post headquarters," furnished as his mobile office by other Legionnaires who felt they could afford the expense in view of their savings for a permanent home. The vehicle brought post meetings to towns throughout Ventura County.

***www.centennial.legion.org/california/post48***

**Share your post's legacy**

Upload photos, stories and videos related to your post's history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration page.

***www.centennial.legion.org***

EDUCATION

# What to know about VA debt repayment

**Q:** *I am a veteran using my GI Bill benefits at the University of San Diego. This semester has been difficult, so I had to drop classes. I recently received a debt letter from VA for over $4,000. I did not realize that if I dropped my classes I would owe VA money. What are the steps for me to get this debt paid or forgiven?*

**A:** Since you received an initial debt notification letter from VA, which included your rights and obligations regarding the debt, you have 30 days to contact the Debt Management Center (DMC) to repay the entire debt, establish a repayment plan or request a waiver of debt. I recommend you request the waiver within that 30 days. VA has been granting most waivers. If you haven't contacted DMC within 30 days, VA will begin to offset the debt amounts from future GI Bill payments.

If you do not contact DMC within 30 days of receiving the initial letter, additional notification letters will be sent explaining collection efforts and what will be expected.

*Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona.* ***askvalerie@legion.org***

Zip-Up Security I.D. Case

# MAXIMUM SECURITY!

Deluxe Version

## New Exclusive Design!

GENUINE LEATHER

**Holds 34 Cards!**

Buy 1 Get 1

**FREE!**

ONLY $7.99

## So Slim...So Convenient!

Dept. 69234 © 2014 Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr.)

## Protect Your Cash & Credit Cards!

This case is so thin it must have been cut by a high precision laser beam. Soft, rich leather case with brass trim has full zip around protection for MAXIMUM SECURITY for all your cards & cash. So thin and compact, it fits easily in your shirt/pant pocket or even attaches to your key ring. Easily hidden...you'll never worry again! Clear windows hold up to 34 credit cards, photos and cash plus there's a bonus outside window pocket for I.D.'s. Compact fashion import measures 4¹⁄₁₆" x 2¾". Order now and get a second one **FREE** plus **FREE Shipping AND a FREE surprise gift!** **Satisfaction Guaranteed** or Return For Your Money Back

**ORDER NOW TOLL-FREE** **1.800.530.2689** | **www.DreamProducts.com** (website offers may vary)

**FREE! SHIPPING**

***AND...***

Receive a
FREE Surprise Gift
with Every Order

| | |
|---|---|
| **Zip-Up Security I.D. Case** | |
| #94355 _____ Black Security Case(s) @ $7.99 each **PLUS BLACK FREE** | $ |
| #94356_____ Burgundy Security Case(s) @ $7.99 each **PLUS BURGUNDY FREE** | $ |
| #94357 _____ Black Security Case(s) @ $7.99 each **PLUS BURGUNDY FREE** | $ |
| **CA residents must add 7.5% sales tax** | $ |
| Regular Shipping Add ~~$3.95~~ | $ **FREE** |
| Add $1.00 handling no matter how many ordered. | $ 1.00 |
| ☐ ✔ **FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING** *(optional)* **Add An Additional $2.95** (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment) | $ 2.95 |
| Please Print Clearly **TOTAL** | $ |

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover®/NOVUSˢᴹCards

**Dept. 69234** Card# Exp. Date /

Name

Address

City ST Zip

Daytime Phone #

Email Address

Check or money order **payable** to: **Dream Products, Inc.**
**Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496**

## How to submit a reunion

*The American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280,** e-mail **reunions@legion.org** or submit information via our website, **www.legion.org/reunions.**

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year.** Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280** or e-mail **reunions@legion.org.**

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

**60th Trp Carrier Grp (1950-1951) & Other C-119 Vets,** Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/21, Paul Baldwin, (254) 694-2267, dbaldwin@hillsboro.net; **81st Sec/Base Police Sqdn (RAF Bentwaters, Woodbridge, England (1965-1975) – All Yrs, All Support Personnel, Flt Line & Guests,** Washington, 4/17-19, Wayne Cadman, (207) 647-5453, hombrecadman@gmail.com; **603rd AC&W Sqdn – All Dets & Locations,** Pigeon Forge, TN, 4/26-29, Vaughn Rogers, (727) 375-8955, btb_rogers@yahoo.com; **7499th/7575th Grps & Associated Sqdns and Units,** Berlin, 9/28-10/1, Eugene Trosterud, (240) 925-4226, creekmisty@comcast.net; **Arc Light-Young Tiger Assn (B-52/KC-135 SEA Opns, 1965-1975),** Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 6/15-19, Russell Stephenson, (410) 740-8024, rgsteph@msn.com

## ARMY

**15th Med 1st Cav & Medevac,** Boise, ID, 4/15-19, Jim Calibro, (209) 573-0701, jimcc4@att.net; **26th Inf Rgt "Blue Spaders,"** Chicago, 6/17-20, Tom Galvin, (703) 599-6480; **88th Inf Div & TRUST Trps SE Chpt,** North Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/27-30, Preston Bryant, (803) 245-4462, nimrod004@earthlink.net; **F Trp 8th Cav Blue Ghost,** Charlotte, NC, 4/23-26, Dennis Galinski, (352) 419-5148, dennisg65@tampabay.rr.com; **Firebase Abn 101st Abn, 2/501 Inf, 2/319 & 2/11 Arty,** Mesa, AZ, 5/12-17, Larry Laughlin, (480) 644-1322, Illock@q.com

## JOINT

**Vets of Underage Mil Serv,** Branson, MO, 4/16-18, Ralph Kleyla, (337) 229-6583, kleylar@cox.net

## MARINES

**1st, 2nd & 3rd Amtracs,** Biloxi, MS, 6/24-26, Robert Glausier, (301) 432-5289; **HMR/HMM/HMH 361,** Pensacola, FL, 9/30-10/4, John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, jruffini5@gmail.com; **Hotel 2/7 Vietnam (1965-1970),** Buffalo, NY, 6/5-7, Ralph Sirianni, (716) 903-9640, trippr19@aol.com; **Marine Corps Musicians Assn,** San Diego, 4/28-5/1, Kirk Troen, (757) 673-0026, kirk@grouptoursnow.com

## NAVY

***Aolus* ARC 3,** Warwick, RI, 6/12-15, Michael Jarvis, (586) 899-4801; **Bathyscaph *Trieste/Trieste II* DSV 1 & *Point Loma* AGDS 2,** Branson, MO, 5/7-11, Stan Reinhold, (623) 332-1763, sreinhold@cox.net; ***Bremerton* CA 130/SSN 698,** Louisville, KY, 9/13-18, N. Polanowski, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com; ***Brownson* DD 518/868,** Charleston, SC, 6/21-25, Guy Linscott, (207) 233-6531, seabatt37@yahoo.com; ***Buck* DD 761,** Branson, MO, 5/3-7, Glen Bakken, (218) 927-4636, labakken@mlecwb.net; ***Duluth* LPD 6,** Duluth, MN, 8/19-22, John Adams, (484) 483-9763, jdat86@comcast.net; ***Epperson* DDE/DD 719,** Milwaukee, 9/16-20, Steve Kaminsky, (847) 566-1918, pairofskis@comcast.net; ***Eugene A. Greene*,** Buffalo, NY, 9/14-17, Jack Plasterer, (717) 273-2763, llplasterer@comcast.net; ***Fairfax County* LST 1193,** Little Creek, VA, 8/14-16, Kurt Schroeder, (701) 388-4386, xraydude69@yahoo.com; ***Gregory* DD 802,** St. Louis, 4/26-30, Ken Boyer, (651) 633-6247, gloriab13@usfamily.net; ***Halfbeak* SS 352,** Manitowoc, WI, 7/6-10, Bill Oswald, (727) 421-2667, bjoswald@mindspring.com; ***Houston* CA 30 Survivors Assn & Next Gen,** Houston, 3/5-7, John Schwarz, (703) 867-0142, contact@usshouston.org; ***Huse* DE 145,** Tampa, FL, 10/18-21, David Perlstein, (561) 368-7167, dbp14@hotmail.com; ***Knudson* APD 101,** Rapid City, SD, 6/14-17, Wayne Reynolds, (386) 789-8612, wjr502@cfl.rr.com; ***Lawrence* DDG 4/DD 250,** Norfolk, VA, 4/29-5/3, Craig Bernat, (814) 322-4150, dguts@usslawrence.com; ***Maddox* DD 168/622/731,** Wichita, KS, 9/9-13, Dennis Stokhaug, (262) 679-9409, maddox64@aol.com; ***Manatee*,** Las Vegas, 5/28-31, Ann Perrigoue, (623) 398-4074, gfms691@hotmail.com; ***Midway* Vets Assn,** San Diego, 4/23-25, Ronald Pope, (972) 735-7850, ronaldpope79@yahoo.com; ***Morton*,** Buffalo, NY, 5/27-31, Al Creasey, (828) 894-6365, trebla1@windstream.net; ***Mullinnix* DD 944,** Nashville, TN, 4/29-5/3, Bob Houghton, (302) 650-3042, muxassn@hotmail.com; ***Newport News* CA 148,** Long Beach, CA, 5/14-17, Al Siegel, (818) 451-9158, ca148@charter.net; ***Nicholas* DD/DDE 449 & FFG 47,** Portland, OR, 6/4-7, Mike Carroll, (360) 904-2505, mandscarroll@hotmail.com; **NSA Da Nang (Vietnam),** Salt Lake City, 4/20-25, Bernie Uhrinek, (724) 353-9627, jbrsar@salsgiver.com; **Patrol Craft Sailors,** Bay City, MI, 6/9-14, Duane (Bucky) Walters, (315) 487-2623, buckypcsa@twcny.rr.com; ***Power* DD 839,** Mobile, AL, 5/12-16, John Pinto, (352) 527-2352, jpinto839@gmail.com; ***Robert E. Lee* SSBN 601,** Branson, MO, 4/15-19, Joe White, (405) 410-9206, joewhite727@gmail.com; ***Spinax* SS 489,** San Antonio, 4/27-5/1, Jack Thormahlen, (512) 913-4861, eht_jlt@yahoo.com; **Sqdns & Shipmates of *Midway* & *Franklin D. Roosevelt*,** Seattle, 9/15-20, Al Wedemeyer, (859) 689-7001, squadronmates@aol.com; ***Steinaker* DD/DDR 863,** Virginia Beach, VA, 4/23-26, John Evans, (254) 634-0602, texasevans@yahoo.com; ***The Sullivans* DD 537/DDG 68,** Jacksonville, FL, 5/27-30, Carl DePoy, (352) 343-8363, k8bbt@usa2net.net; **VR-24 (Rota, Spain),** Washington, 5/7-10, Jerry Kuehnle, (240) 577-9889, kuehnle@md.metrocast.net; ***Wahoo* SS 565,** Portland, OR, 5/20-23, Tom Young, (603) 918-0166, tank@tomandshirleyyoung.com; **Wisconsin LST Assn (Crew & Amph Forces),** Milwaukee, 1/7, Harvey Lewis, (920) 296-0551; ***Yellowstone* AD 27,** Harrisburg, PA, 6/7-10, Paul Bowen, (325) 208-5400, bowp@centurylink.net

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

**Post 627, MN:** Lee R. Anderson Sr.

**Post 64, WY:** Ranndol Bosch

## IN SEARCH OF

**3rd Army Touch Football Championship (1964),** Gary Bauknecht, (352) 750-5222, gbpompi@earthlink.net

**23rd Ord APO 176 (Heilbronn, Germany, 1961-1963),** Florian Schindler, (952) 467-2433

**76th Trans 37th Grp (1974-1976),** William Anderson, (304) 758-4496

**82nd Abn Div (Opn Power Pack, Dominican Republic, 1965),** John Urbach, (410) 282-0844, baltoscouter@comcast.net

**87th AAA 97th Grp AAA Baseball Team & 87th D Btry (Okinawa, 1952-1953),** Brud Coombs, (845) 855-3376, bseecoach@comcast.net

**596th QM Co (Petroleum Depot) (Fort Lee, VA, 1961-1963),** Rosendo Gonzalez, (361) 813-5074, rhgonzalez@stx.rr.com

**US Army Intelligence School (USAINTS) Class B-313 (April-July 1955),** Richard Leiweke, (618) 942-8281, lei4dorm@frontier.com

**CIC Crash Team (Pentagon, 1951-1952),** Harris Olson, (262) 970-9777

**HQ Co (Fort Wainwright, AK, 1966-1968),** Tommy Beechum, (931) 289-3453

***Randolph* CVA 15 3rd Div (1954),** Earl Christopherson, emco@cvcexpress.net

**SAC 320th Bomb Wing (H) A&E Sqdn (Mather AFB, CA, 1964-1967),** Charlie Myers, (360) 856-1037, cchasjan2@frontier.com

**VA-212 Line Crew, Ship 207 (NAS Moffett Field, CA, 1957-1958),** Joe Lee, (678) 458-0463

***Virgo* AKA 20/AE 30 (1943-1975),** Walt Tomlin, (254) 982-4469, wdtomlin@vvm.com

**Xyuen Moc FOB (Vietnam, Dec 1971-Mar 1972),** John O'Neill, (218) 969-9725

## TAPS

**William G. "Jerry" Blair, Dept. of Alaska.** Dept. Cmdr. 1985-1986, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1984-1985 and Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1987-1990.

**Ernie P. Broussard, Dept. of Louisiana.** Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1987-1988, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Consultant 1993-2013 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1987.

**Richard W. Clark, Dept. of Oregon.** Dept. Cmdr. 1988-1989, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2003-2013, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 1988-2013 and Nat'l Law & Order/Homeland Sec. Cmte. Memb. 2013-2014.

**Kenneth J.S. DeSimone, Dept. of Kentucky.** Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Consultant 1970-1982 and Nat'l Select Cmte. on Special Problems of the Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Program Consultant 1977-1978.

**Charles E. French, Dept. of Georgia.** Dept. Cmdr. 2006-2007, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2009-2014, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 2001-2007 and Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Memb. 2007-2014.

**Douglas W. Henley, Dept. of Maryland.** Dept. Cmdr. 1981-1982, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2003-2013, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1977-1982, Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Chmn. 1982-1986 and 1988-1989, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1989-2003, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Chmn. 1986-1988, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014, and Nat'l Veterans Planning and Coordinating Cmte. 1986-1988.

**James N. Holler, Dept. of Wisconsin.** Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2009.

**Joseph Howell Jr., Dept. of Florida.** Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 2002-2006.

**Jennings B. "J.B." Loring, Dept. of Tennessee.** Dept. Cmdr. 1997-1998, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2002-2004, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2006, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2007-2008, Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 1981-2002, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2006-2007, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2006-2008, Nat'l Media & Comm. Cmsn. Memb. 2013-2014, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2008-2011 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 2011-2013.

**Ole R. Mettler, Dept. of California.** Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957.

**Donald P. Pemberton, Dept. of Montana.** Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1995-1997, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1993-1994, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Region 8 Chmn. 1998-1999, Nat'l VA&R Region 8 Vice Chmn. 1997-1998 and Nat'l VA&R Region 8 Memb. 1994-1997.

**Neal L. Thomas Jr., Dept. of Colorado.** Dept. Cmdr. 1988-1989, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2009-2012, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Memb. 2005-2006 and 2013-2014, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 1985-1986, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2012-2013, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Consultant 1986-1995, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2012-2013 and Nat'l Conv. Res. Assignment Cmte. Memb. 2006-2012.

**Ivan E. Torkelson, Dept. of Iowa.** Dept. Cmdr. 1997-1998, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1999-2003, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. 1987-1989, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2003-2005, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1998-2003, Nat'l Internal Affairs Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2003-2005, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Memb. 1989-1997 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1980-1987.

**Normand G. "Mickey" Vadnais, Dept. of Rhode Island.** Dept. Cmdr. 2007-2008, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2009-2011, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2011-2013, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2011-2013, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2004-2011 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

*(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)*

**1. Title of Publication:** THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

**2. Publication Number:** 0886-1234

**3. Date of filing:** September 29, 2014

**4. Frequency of issue:** Monthly

**5. No. of issues published annually:** 12

**6. Annual subscription price:** $3.00

**7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46216 (Marion County)

**8. Complete mailing address of headquarters of general business offices of the publisher:** 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**9. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:**

**Publisher:** Jeffrey Stoffer,
700 N. Pennsylvania St.,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Editor:** Jeffrey Stoffer,
700 N. Pennsylvania St.,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Managing Editor:** Matt Grills,
700 N. Pennsylvania St.,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**10. Owner:** The American Legion Headquarters,
700 N. Pennsylvania St.,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**11. Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:** None

**12. Tax Status:** The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.

**13. Publication Title:** The American Legion Magazine

**14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:** September 2014

**15. Extent and nature of circulation:**

| | Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months | Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date |
|---|---|---|
| **a. Total number of copies printed** | 2,146,031 | 2,136,665 |
| **b. Paid and/or requested circulation** | | |
| **1.Paid/Requested outside-county subscriptions stated on Form 3541** | 2,138,234 | 2,128,945 |
| **2. Paid in-county subscriptions** | 0 | 0 |
| **3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution** | 4,173 | 4,148 |
| **4. Other classes mailed through the USPS** | 0 | 0 |
| **c. Total paid and/or requested circulation** ***(Sum of 15b (1),(2),(3), and (4))*** | 2,142,406 | 2,133,093 |
| **d. Free distribution by mail** | | |
| **1. Outside-county as stated on Form 3541** | 2,995 | 2,955 |
| **2. In-county as stated on Form 3541** | 0 | 0 |
| **3.Other classes mailed through the USPS** | 0 | 0 |
| **e. Free distribution outside the mail** | 0 | 0 |
| **f. Total Free distribution** ***(Sum of 15d and 15e)*** | 2,995 | 2,955 |
| **g. Total distribution** ***(Sum of 15c and 15f)*** | 2,145,401 | 2,136,048 |
| **h. Copies not distributed** | 630 | 617 |
| **i. Total (Sum of 15g and h)** | 2,146,031 | 2,136,665 |
| **j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation** | 99.86 | 99.86 |

**I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.**

Jeffrey Stoffer, Publisher

## LEGION SHOPPER

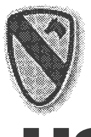
**100 Year Old Morgan Silver Dollars** *For Only* **$27.75 ea.**

Each of these Morgan Silver Dollars is **very good to very fine** condition. All dated between 1878 and 1904 and containing **.77344** troy ounces of pure silver. Price is subject to change without notice. Dates of our choice. All major credit cards accepted. Limit 20 coins. **FREE Shipping**.

**Order Secure On line at www.ENIMORGAN.com**
**30-day unconditional return guarantee**

EASTERN NUMISMATICS INC
642 Franklin Ave Garden City, N.Y. 11530
**1-800-835-0008**
on the web at WWW. USCOINS.com

**HAT PINS • MEDALS • BALL CAPS • BUCKLES • PATCHES •**



- **FREE COLOR CATALOG**
- 2500+ Military Designs
- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines
- ***Call now! Toll-free! 1-888-223-1159***
- Custom pins & patches available. Dealer inquires welcome.

**HONORS**
by Hoover's Mfg., Co.
P.O. Box 547AL, Peru, IL 61354
Fax: 1-815-223-1499
**Email: dave@hmchonors.com**
**Website: www.hmchonors.com**

**DIGITAL HEARING SALE**

*5 year warranty* **$339.95** Any size or style

Made in the U.S.A. **$249.95 to $499.95** none higher

NEW! **OPEN FIT TECHNOLOGY** Most Brands

FREE Telephone Hearing Test
FREE Consultation with Technician
**FREE TRIAL** • FREE S&H

Repairs $77.00 *Since 1981*

**Hearing ONE • 1-800-249-4163**
**100 Main St., Marty, SD 57361**
**NOT AVAILABLE IN WA**

**U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS**

**FREE COLOR CATALOG!**
**TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062**
**VETS SUPPLY LINE**
**10550 CO RD 81, #218**
**MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369**
**WEB SITE: www.MilitaryVetsPX.com**

**DOG TAGS** **PATCHES**

**CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS**

**Moving?**

Exclusive Savings for Legion Families!

**FREE estimates! Do you qualify for discounts?**
**Call or visit the Legion Member web page today!**

northAmerican **800.343.6899**
**http://Legion.movingnavl.com**

ALLIED **800.871.8864**
**http://Legion.movingallied.com**

*I'm going to give up my New Year's resolutions for Lent. Two birds with one stone.*

**CHRISTMAS** is special, all right. What other time of year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

**A FATHER** asked his little girl what she wanted for Christmas. She told him that what she wanted more than anything else was a baby brother.

The next winter, as that baby brother cooed and babbled in the next room, the girl's father asked her what she wanted this year.

"Well," she said, "if it's not too uncomfortable for Mommy, I'd like a pony."

**THE WEATHER BUREAU** isn't taking chances anymore. Its latest prediction is "slightly cloudy with drifts up to 3 feet."

**SANTA CLAUS** goes down so many chimneys that I hear he's thinking of getting a yearly flue shot.

**A TOMCAT** courting a potential girlfriend said, "Baby, I'd die for you."

"You would?" the other cat replied wistfully. "How many times?"

**A JUDGE** asked a defendant, "Have I seen you somewhere before?"

"You have, your honor," the defendant replied. "I gave your daughter singing lessons."

"Oh, that's right. Thirty years."

**CONVERSATION** between Adam and Eve must have been difficult at times. They had nobody to talk about.

"So do I, like, get a tracking number or anything?"

"Where are MY milk and cookies?"

"I'm terrible with names. Mine is either Bradley or Mike."

**A PATIENT** asked her doctor, "Do you think raw oysters are healthy?"

"Well," he replied, "I've never known one to complain."

**WHO SAYS "OH OH OH"?** Santa Claus walking backwards.

**A DOG** went into a Western Union office, took out a blank form and wrote, "Woof woof woof woof woof woof woof woof woof."

The clerk studied the form and said, "There are only nine woofs here. You could send another for the same price."

"But that would be silly," the dog replied.

**"MANY OF THE LEADERS** and assistants to the leaders from around the world were in attendance at the U.N. Climate Summit. They say this was arguably the most high-profile, significant meeting that will in no way change anything whatsoever."

– *Jimmy Kimmel*

SPECIAL 2015 30th anniversary PRE-RELEASE

# GOLD & SILVER

2015
$5 GOLD EAGLE
$125.00

2015
$1 SILVER EAGLE
$19.00

# AMERICAN EAGLES

Official Government Issued Legal Tender Coins • Fully Backed by the United States Government • Minted at the United States West Point Mint
Brilliant Uncirculated Condition• IRA Eligible • Experts Predict $7500/oz. Gold & $200/oz. Silver

## 384%+ AVG. INCREASE

### IN GOLD & SILVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

A $50,000 investment diversified in gold and silver 10 years ago would be worth more than $192,000 today! That's more than a 384% increase.

Special arrangements will be made for those investing $50,000 or more in gold, silver, or platinum portfolios. Call for details.

*Increase based from 2004 – 2014.

*Free shipping offer limited to 30 days post ad production. Free shipping only for orders of $500 or more. Gold coin orders limited to 3 gold coins per household per type. Due to limited supply, offer may be withdrawn or reduced at any time. New customers only. No dealers please. 2015 coins will be shipped on or around January 13, 2015.

100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

# 1915

## INDIAN GOLD FOR ONLY $349

3 COIN LIMIT!

VAULT CODE: AL1214

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

UNITED STATES PRECIOUS METALS

NGC

FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OF $500 OR MORE

1-855-203-6320

ICE HOUSE™

# Flannel-Lined PANTS

**THIS AD ONLY SAVE $16!**

Regularly 27.99 per pair

**Now 19.99 per pair when you buy 2**

Home heating costs are only going up! But for every degree you lower your thermostat for 8 hours, your bill is reduced by 1%! So put on our top-to-toe warm Ice House™ Flannel-Lined Pants, turn down that thermostat 4 or 5 degrees & ***SAVE, SAVE, SAVE!***

- Two deep front, & two back pockets
- Rugged outer cotton/polyester twill
- Soft cotton lining
- Pre-shrunk for perfect fit
- Full S-T-R-E-T-C-H waist with snap closure and zip-fly
- Hefty belt loops
- Under $20!

Plus

## Soft Flannel SHIRTS 11.99 each

Choice of 5 colors, made of durable, extra-soft cotton & polyester brushed flannel! Adjustable cuffs & two handy chest pockets. Machine wash & dry.

***All Shirt Sizes, Same Low Price!***

**Shirt Sizes:** S(34-36) M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48)
**Big Men:** 2XL(50-52) 3XL(54-56) 4XL(58-60)
**Tall Men:** LT(42-44) XLT(46-48) 2XT(50-52) 3XT(54-56)

**Flannel-Lined PANTS** only **19.99*** per pair when you buy 2
2 for 39.98 3 for 57.47

**Soft Flannel SHIRTS 11.99 each**

**Haband** #1 Bargain Place, Jessup, PA 18434-1834

Card # ______________________ Exp.: ___ /____
Mr. Mrs. Ms.______________________
Address______________________ Apt. # ___
City & State______________________ Zip ______
Phone/**Email** ______________________

☐ Haband!
☐ BLAIR CLASSIC
☐ Visa
☐ MC
☐ Discover® Network
☐ AmEx
☐ Check

I enclose $_______ purchase price, and only $5.99 shipping & handling for my entire order. Please add applicable state & local sales tax for the following states: AZ, GA, MA, NJ, PA, WI, & WV.

Imported

**Pants On-Line Quick Order**

| ☺ | 7T3–01N4J | WHAT WAIST? | WHAT INSEAM? | HOW MANY? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 02 | TAN | | | |
| 01 | BLACK | | | |
| 03 | NAVY | | | |
| 6J | GREY HEATHER | | | |
| 8V | ICE HOUSE BLUE | | | |

**Shirts On-Line Quick Order**

| ☺ | 7T3–1257E | WHAT SIZE? | HOW MANY? |
|---|---|---|---|
| 06 | GREY | | |
| EB | BURGUNDY | | |
| JT | BLACK | | |
| 05 | BLUE | | |
| 11 | GREEN | | |

***ORDER YOUR NORMAL WAIST SIZE!***
**Waists: 32 34 36 38 40 42 44**
***Big Men** ($5 more per pair):*
**46 48 50**

Inseams: **XS**(25-26) **S**(27-28) **M**(29-30) **L**(31-32) **XL**(33-34)

☐**Check here for Protection Plus! (X57)** Expedites replacement of items lost in transit. Add $2.95 to protect your entire order.

***100% Satisfaction Guaranteed***
*or Full Refund of merchandise purchase price.*

*When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.*

**For Faster Service Call: 1-800-543-4810 or Visit www.Haband.com/bestdeals**